

Administrator's Annual Meeting Report for 2015 (presented in 2016)

Rib Mountain experienced significant changes in staff over the last twelve months. In early 2015, the Building/Zoning Department was revamped. The position of Director of Community Development was created along with the Building Inspector/Assistant Zoning Administrator position. This was done with the anticipation of the retirement of Dan Dziadosz and the vacancy created by the Assistant Inspector/Zoning Assistant Jeff Kussow. The Director of Community Development position would focus primarily on planning and zoning. The Building Inspector/Zoning Assistant would be the primary Inspector. This was done without additional positions being added. Steve Kunst was hired in March 2015 as the Director of Community Development coming from Portage County. Paul Kufahl was hired as the Building Inspector/Zoning Assistant in September. Paul's experience is from the private sector in residential design.

Also in 2015, the Clerk/Treasurer position was modified to a Director of Finance/Clerk. The primary focus of the position would be financials. The election responsibilities were transferred to the Deputy Clerk. In August, Rib Mountain hired Jessica Trautman. Jessica had experience in public accounting with the majority of her experience working for the Village of Weston. The hiring was a ten-month process due to limited number of candidates.

In early 2016, Office Assistant Joelle Kocha resigned from Rib Mountain after almost two years of service. Rib Mountain rehired Kelly Stegmann who previously worked for Rib Mountain in 2013. The rehire allowed for a fairly seamless process.

The Town's website was redesigned and unveiled in 2016. The new design gives the site a fresh look. It had been over six years since the site was originally designed. Once again, the Town contracted with GovOffice for the design update as well as a "clean-up" of the site. This included fixing broken links and re-categorizing pull-down menus. We also implemented an e-notification system that allows residents to subscribe through email for meeting announcements. We encourage you to check it out.

We are proud to report the Town has over 500 Likes on our Facebook page. Our Facebook page has been in existence since 2010. We use the site to post upcoming events, new businesses and other pertinent information.

Interest in the Town property located at 2800 Martin Avenue (Tanglewood Property) continues. Rib Mountain purchased the property in foreclosure in 2014. The Town wants to ensure that a quality development project will occur here. We hope to have a presented project/development soon.

One of the biggest challenges Rib Mountain faced this year was the county-wide addressing project. Marathon County Board of Supervisors made the decision in February 2016 to go forward with uniform addressing. Concerns were raised by public safety officials over duplicate addresses and confusing locations. The new system will change numbering and possibly street names. Rib Mountain went on record opposing this change. As an unincorporated community we would not have a choice. However, Rib Mountain's addresses are based on the Wausau grid. If the City of Wausau does not participate, the grid remains. Implementation is scheduled for 2017. We will be working with County officials on the changes.

Trail development expanded in 2015. The long-awaited nature trail at Doepke Park opened. This project was funded through the Department of Natural Resources Stewardship Funds and Federal Recreational Trail funds. This has become a popular trail for walkers and joggers. We also saw the completion of the Lions Trail Shelter. The trail shelter sits at the corner of CTH NN/CTR R. It also has a "Fix-It-Station". We anticipate a similar trail shelter near the 51/29 trail.

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee made a change to the annual Bike Rodeo in 2015. For the first time, the Bike Rodeo was held in conjunction with the Rib Mountain Summer Playground program. This setup worked very well and will continue this point forward.

What an exciting year for new businesses! Men's Wearhouse opened just before Christmas in the Best Buy Shopping Center. We also saw Plato's Closet open near Marathon Savings Bank and the UPS Store next door to U-Bake. We also had the announcement for Dick's Sporting Goods and Red Robin restaurant. Lastly, the Howard Johnson and Emma's Krumbie's will be torn down and in place a new hotel will be developed. Rib Mountain is going through a phase of redevelopment. We expect similar projects being announced.

For 2016, we are happy that we are at full staff levels. This will help us tackle larger projects and continue to meet the needs of the residents. Staff will be working on several projects throughout the year including the Presidential Election, Rib Mountain Drive Phase 2, Comprehensive Plan, etc.