NEW SHORT TERM RENTAL REGULATIONS

Ordinance changes include:
- Cap is 4% of total housing stock the previous year (Jan 1st – Oct 31st). The cap is 53 for 2022. We currently have 57 permits issued. Permits will decrease via natural attrition.
- 2 off-street parking spaces per dwelling
- MN Dept of Health Inspection required prior to city permit being issued.
- No STR will be permitted in residential zones.
- Occupancy limitations

This ordinance amendment will NOT affect current STR permit holders.

A copy of the amended ordinance is available on the city’s website under “Notices”. The effective date for changes will be June 23, 2022.

LAND USE & BUILDING PERMITS

Thinking about a new fence this summer? Or maybe you plan to install a new deck, driveway, or shed? A land use permit is required for a variety of structures and improvements. When applying for a land use or building permit, residents should allow 7-10 business days for approval. It’s common to see a resident come to city hall on a Friday expecting to start a project that weekend, however, staff is not always available for same-day approval. Contact the Community Development Planner if you are unsure if you need a permit for a specific project.

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!
811

EMERALD ASH BORER

The MN Dept of Agriculture has confirmed Emerald Ash Borer in Lake County for the 1st time. For more information, please visit the MDA website or contact LCSWCD.

www.mda.state.mn.us/eab
LCSWCD: (218) 834-8370

VENDOR MARKET PERMITS

Outdoor vendor market stands including food trucks are required to be permitted with the city as well as the MN Dept of Health. Applications can be found on the city’s website under the “Planning Department” or at City Hall. “Food Truck Fridays” coming soon!

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

1. Tipsy Mosquito Wine Bar (In Progress)
2. Medea – Bistro (In Progress)
3. Cedar Coffee/SpokenGear/Cedaero Expansion (In Progress)
4. Lake Superior Dental (In Progress)
5. Two Harbors Family Dental (Completed)
6. Harbor Rail Events/Loft/Pub (Completed)
7. 630 Lofts (completed)
8. Seagren’s Home, Hardware, & Outdoors 2nd location (Completed)
9. Port City Nutrition (Completed)
HIGHWAY 61 PROJECT UPDATE

The 2025 Hwy 61 Project is coming up fast. MNDOT held a public information session on March 29. There was good attendance and good feedback.

The purpose of the project is to alleviate congestion along Hwy 61 while ensuring safety for all. The city will be installing new underground infrastructure along route.

Proposed design elements may include roundabouts, mini roundabouts, additional turn lanes, or synchronized signals. Nothing is set in stone at this time.

The city has established a steering committee that includes Lake County to ensure both the city & the county have a voice in the project. MNDOT has been excellent to work with thus far. Our committee has expressed a desire to incorporate a safe route for ATV, snowmobile, bicycle, and pedestrians to safely cross the highway – particularly at Park Rd and ensure businesses along the route maintain easy access and parking. We’ll continue to work with our partners at MNDOT, Lake County, and our Stakeholders. This is a project that will have a big impact on Two Harbors for years to come.

CHICKENS ARE NOT PERMITTED WITHIN CITY LIMITS

IT’S NEIGHBORLY & IT’S CITY CODE

As temperatures warm, there are also a few seasonal ordinances that we must all keep in mind:

- **Keep your building exteriors in good condition.** That includes surface paint, siding, and coverings, plus windows, doors, joints, gutters, antennae, sidewalks, driveways, foundations, decks, stairs, handrails, and retaining walls. Property maintenance is expected for all homes and buildings in Two Harbors.

- **Ensure your garage sale, marketing, and other signs** are posted only on your own property or on another’s private property provided you obtain permission from the property owner. Signs posted along streets or attached to utility poles will be removed and discarded.

- **Keep leaves & grass clippings out of the streets & sidewalks** to prevent them from entering storm sewers and eventually polluting our lakes and ponds.

- **Weeds, Grass, & Mowing.** The City of Two Harbors requires all properties be maintained, mowed, and free of noxious weeds.

- **Junk, abandon vehicles, appliances, furniture, and other unsightly goods** are considered blight & violate city code.

- **Pet Waste** should be removed immediately on property not owned by the pet owner & weekly from pet owners own property.

COMMISSION UPDATES (Commissions That I Staff)

**TREES & TRAILS**

Trees & trails has been working with the ATV & Snowmobile Clubs to incorporate motorized trails into the city’s trail plan.

A survey will be done for the Odegard Trial Project in the next few weeks; the trail is a collaborative project with Lake County & the Two Harbors Area Fund. It will be completed by the end of this year.

Trees and Trails was also the recipient of the 2021 Tree City USA Growth Award.

The Commission is also working with SpokenGear to establish a fat tire bike trail.

**PLANNING COMMISSION**

The Planning Commission has been working diligently on the short-term rental ordinance revision.

**THEDA**

Has not met due to lack of quorum

**PUBLIC ART**

Has not met due to lack of quorum

Interested in serving on a commission? Please contact city hall at (218) 834-5631 or submit an application to City Hall - located on the city website under “City Officials”.

---
THE HOUSING STUDY IS COMPLETE!

A comprehensive housing study for Two Harbors was completed in 2017 by Maxfield Research. The study was updated in 2022 by the same firm as per a request from the Two Harbors HRA for a potential project.

The demographics have shifted between general occupancy and senior housing.

In 2017, the study indicated the city needed 707 new housing units by 2031. This equates to approximately 50 units per year for the 14-year duration.

In 2022, the study indicated the city needs 726 new housing units by 2036. This equates to approximately 51 new units per year for again a 14-year duration.

In 2017, there was a demand for general occupancy of 42% though 2031; in 2022 the general occupancy demand is 73.3% through 2036. This is a substantial increase.

There is a HUGE shift in the demand for senior housing. In 2017, the demand was 58% through 2031; in 2022 the demand for senior housing is 26.7% through 2036.

This is just a summary of the findings. The 2017 Comprehensive Housing Study and the 2022 Housing Study Update can be found on the city’s website under the “Planning Department”.

HOME IMPROVEMENT HELP IS AVAILABLE

There are still funds remaining in the MN Housing Rehab Grant Fund obtained by the City of Two Harbors & the Lake County HRA. This grant is limited to owner occupied housing and has a specific geographical project area (7th Avenue area). AEOA is administering this funding.

This is a great program to weatherize your home, shore up a basement or foundation, or get a new roof.

Contact Beth Davies at AEOA for further info: beth.davies@aeoa.org or (218) 735-6819

SMALL CITIES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM also has funds available for commercial property owners in the 7th avenue area interested in improving their properties. If you are interested in participating in this program or have questions, please contact Scott Zahorik at AEOA. Scott.zahorik@aeoa.org

The city has partnered with Small Business Development Center to provide entrepreneurs and existing businesses with the necessary tools to start a business or take an existing business to the next level. They provide the following services:

Developing a plan from the ground up - understanding finances, identifying competitors, describing customers, developing a business plan, and funding your business.

Starting your business - trainings, creating financial plans, and registering your business.

Efficiently and properly running everyday functions - Marketing, employees, legal and taxes, and emergency planning.

Growing and taking the business to the next level – goals, advertising, websites & social media, financial analysis, software.

These services are completely free. No cost ever to the client. The SBDC is funded through the SBA and other collaborative partners.

More information can be found at:
https://northlandsbdc.org/

Click on “request services”
Greetings! Moving into the Spring season allows us more time outdoors with friends and family. I hope everyone is enjoying the trails and the other outdoor amenities that Two Harbors and the North Shore has to offer. There is a lot going on this summer and I have no doubt it will be one of the busiest tourism seasons that Two Harbors has seen in a long time. It will be great! Downtown has been blossoming. I appreciate everyone’s investment in the community!

I often mention new and upcoming businesses, but I’d also like to recognize our largest employers in Two Harbors: Lakeview Hospital, Stanley LaBounty, Louisiana Pacific, Waterview Shores, Lake County, ISD #381, Serco Loaders, and Super One Foods. * These businesses employ a total of 752 people!

I also want to take a minute to thank the awesome volunteers that we have in this community, whether it’s maintaining the Edna G., planting and watering trees, picking up trash, building trails, hosting events, serving on commissions, or simply attending meetings. There are so many good people in this community. Everyone makes a difference! So “thank you”.

Feel free to reach out to me anytime with questions, concerns, or suggestions.

Congratulations to the Two Harbors Class of 2022! Best of luck to you all.

* As per the Maxfield Research 2022 Housing Study

“National Planning Conference”

I attended the American Planning Association’s (APA) annual National Planning Conference in May. A series of workshops were held over the week covering topics including aging communities, economic restructuring, climate change impacts & action, transportation & infrastructure, housing & zoning, leveraging technology, planning with intension for inclusion & equity, and federal funding. The sessions were based on modern trends and new regulations set by government. It’s fun to connect with other Planners from across the nation.

The Zoning Code can be found online at: www.twoharborsmn.gov under “Planning Department” - Zoning Code Update

MEMORIAL DAY

MONDAY, MAY 30, 2022
City Offices Closed

SCHEDULE
BUILDING INSPECTIONS BY CALLING CITY HALL (218) 834-5631

Thank You Madeline Jarvis, Two Harbors Library Director, for facilitating & hosting the “Aging Communities” session at the library! Much Appreciated!