

Albion puts Frank & Steins back on probation

By *Tristan McGough*
Special to the Reporter

Following the Plan Commission's (PC) meeting on July 2, 2019, the Albion Board of Supervisors convened its regular meeting and, once again, put John Werkmeister of Frank & Steins back on probation regarding approval of his bar's liquor license.

Due to several outstanding and repetitive issues, chief among them the insufficiency of hours open and the accumulation of junk, "The board feels he is not following the agreement," according to official minutes of the June 4 meeting.

At its last board meeting of June 4, 2019, Supervisor Pat Tesar had made a motion to table approval of the establishment's Class B Combination Liquor and Fermented Malt Beverage License "until further discussion with owner," which Abigail Staff seconded and the board carried in common.

Werkmeister was present at Tuesday evening's July 2 board meeting to give a direct accounting to its members of his bar operations, located at 531 Lake Drive Rd., Edgerton.

He began by telling supervisors, "I started taking tents down beginning of the year, and I've been cleaning things up since."

He also explained that, according to his agreement with the town, Frank & Steins only had to be open during the days of Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Werkmeister asserted he had done his best to honor that pledge.

Staff asked about the number of vehicles parked in the business' parking lot.

Werkmeister responded, "I plan on getting rid of some and after I do that, I'll have 10 to 15 registered vehicles on the lot, plus my RV."

Board member Jeff Lehn-herr inquired, "How long do you think that will take?"

"Two months or less," Werkmeister replied, and then resumed, "I plan on doing a lot of stuff this summer, including the roof and siding."

As members discussed the advisability of the owner obtaining a building permit, Werkmeister confessed, "I didn't know I needed a permit for siding."

Clerk Julie Hanewall interjected, "You will probably need to do a commercial design review."

Continuing discussions led to some confusion of the best way to proceed until Werkmeister offered, "I'll just clean up the stuff and come back in two months."

Supervisor Larry Beck did a

calculation out-loud, "I think that by taking out one or two vehicles a week, you can make that."

"I'm already having some removed and will continue," Werkmeister rejoined.

"I also brought receipts from my business for you to look at tonight, so you can see that I've been open."

Werkmeister's willingness to cooperate with the board seemed to go a long way toward winning their goodwill; however, his announcement did even more than that.

"I'll be taking the fence down, clean it all up and have just a regular backyard there."

Surprised by that vision, Staff was the first to speak up, "That would take care of at least one-half of this issue."

Supervisor Pat Tesar amplified, "I'd like to see it sided plus cleaned up!"

However, for the moment, Werkmeister's receipts and pledge to clean the unregistered vehicles and other accumulated junk from his premises bought him another 60 days with the board.

Staff carefully crafted a motion to extend Frank & Steins' combination license for that 60 days until Sept. 3, 2019, during which time Werkmeister will clean up the back part of his lot, along with keeping only regis-

tered vehicles and his RV in the establishment's parking lot. Lastly, he was to return and come before the board again on Sept. 3, at which time probationary status may be lifted for good cause.

The motion was passed unanimously.

Other business items approved by the board included a petition and a review.

The petition came from Todd Olson, owner of a parcel located north and east of 541 Academy Dr., Edgerton. The idea is to take 1.429 acres that is presently Hamlet Residential District (HAM-R) and rezone it to Rural Residential District - 4 to 8 acres (RR-4) while, collaterally, taking another 3.43 acre swatch and turning it from RR-4 to Two Family Residential - Small Lot District (TRF-08). The end result will be two single-family residential properties and two multi-family residential properties.

The PC had recommended approval to the town board, and the petition was carried unanimously.

Similarly, the PC had previously undertaken the Commercial Design Review for Coachmen's Inn Condominium Project, and had passed its recommendation for approval along to the TB, which it did without fanfare.

TEACHER RESIGNS

Continued from page 1

with the conversation and broke it off.

Coombs then showed Chilson a photo of a message the teacher allegedly sent to the student's phone. The photo appeared to depict a basketball game in progress and contained the following text: "the ranch is the goat tbh and if you weren't a ya know I'd like be yo link? Butttttt".

Chilson told Coombs that any messages between the teacher and student were likely still on their respective phones, even if they had deleted them because images and messages are never really deleted from smart phones. However, Chilson said the police wouldn't join the investigation because based on what he'd seen there was nothing criminal about the teacher's conduct.

In his April 10 report, Chilson wrote that Coombs and Lodahl decided they wanted to question the student the next day with the police present to determine whether any crime had been committed.

Homework, then conversation

The next day, April 11, at 8 a.m. Chilson met with Coombs and Lodahl and the student in the conference room at the high school. Chilson told everyone he would be audio- and video-taping the meeting.

Chilson and Coombs both told the student she wasn't in trouble, they just wanted to get to the bottom of the matter and make sure she was safe. Lodahl asked the student questions while Chilson took notes.

The student said that in November of 2018 she had about thirty back-and-forth messages with the teacher. The first few messages were about homework. But then the exchange became more conversational, the student said, more like one student talking to another.

The student said the teacher told her that if she wasn't a student they could watch Netflix together. She texted back LOL but it made her feel awkward and the conversations stopped.

"The goat" explained

Coombs asked the student about the "goat" message. She said that "the ranch" is a Netflix series and "goat" means "greatest of all time."

The student said she thought

the "if you weren't a ya know I'd be like yo link" meant that if she wasn't a student they could hang out or "link up," according to Chilson's report.

The student said there weren't any inappropriate pictures exchanged during the text messages with the teacher, and she denied feeling disturbed or harassed by any of the messages or during any in-person conversations with the teacher.

The student said she and the teacher agreed not to communicate over Instagram any more after another student talked to the teacher about the Instagram messages.

Still the same kid

The Reporter made a public records request for the teacher's resignation letter on Thursday, June 20. On July 1, Dr. Tad Wehner, Director of Finance and Personnel provided The Reporter with a heavily redacted copy of an email the teacher sent him on April 19 announcing his resignation.

The redactions, said Wehner in a cover letter, were made to prevent disclosure of the following types of information:

—Investigative data that might include mere allegations, uncorroborated statements and hearsay

—Personal history or other information that could harm a person's reputation or privacy

—Information directly related to individual students that's protected by state and federal privacy

In the un-redacted portion of the email, the teacher thanks Coombs and Lodahl and District Administrator Dr. Dennis Pauli.

"I couldn't work for a better person (Mark), he is one of the wisest and best mentors that I have ever had and I pray this situation doesn't taint the way he looks at me as a person," the teacher wrote. "I'm the same kid I was five summers ago."

The teacher also wrote that he had only positive things to say about the school district and said he hoped to see "how some of my students here turn out some day."

"I truly connected with these students in the classroom and saw so much growth throughout this year already . . . These kids are great and deserve every bit of it."

Coming Events

The Rock County Human Services Board will be conducting a public hearing on Wednesday, July 10, at the Rock County Job Center, Room D/E, 1900 Center Ave., Janesville, at 6 p.m. The purpose of this hearing is to gather information regarding needs and recommendations regarding the 2020 budget.

Oakland Conservation Club, Cambridge, will be having a 10 week Outdoor Archery League beginning on July 11. The league is made up of two-person teams. Sign up at the clubhouse after 4 p.m. on July 11. For more information, call 608-444-3885.

Raven's Wish Gallery is announcing a solo art exhibit by Sophia Voelker of Madison. Free and open to the public, an artist reception will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, July 12 at Raven's Wish Gallery. The exhibition will hang from July 2 to July 24.

Cooksville Community Center will be having a local history presentation on Saturday, July 13, at 7 p.m. Presentors will be village historian Larry Reed and recently retired Director of the Wisconsin Historical Society, Ellsworth Brown. This free event is a great way for curious folks to learn a bit about the village and what makes it historic.

The Dane County Farmers' Market is displaced from the Wis-

consin State Capitol Square due to the Art Fair on the Square on Saturday, July 13. The Farmers' Market will be held at Breese Stevens Field, 917 E. Mifflin St., from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. on July 13. This is for one week only.

Earthsong Books and Gifts, 2214 Kennedy Road, Janesville, will host the 28th Annual Community Festival, Under the tents at Earthsong on Saturday and Sunday, July 13 and 14, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free Admission.

The Class of 1954 will meet for lunch on Monday, July 15, at Cafe on Main at 11:30 a.m. Class reunion suggestions are welcome.

Earthsong Books and Gifts, 2214 Kennedy Road, Janesville, will have a Group Full Moon Meditation for universal cooperation and good will on Monday, July 15, at 6 p.m.

Girls' Night Out-Rock County to benefit Edgerton's Gifts For Kids will be held Thursday, July 25, from 5 to 8 p.m. at Anchor in Newville. Live music, free admission and free appetizers. Gift basket raffles, 50/50 raffle, wine pull raffle, silent auctions and more.

The Janesville Art League and L'Atelier Studio will host the Janesville Wisconsin Regional Art (WRAP) Exhibit at an artists' reception on Aug. 2 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. and at the WRAP workshop on Aug. 3 from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Janesville Performing Arts Center, Janesville.

The Rock River Safety Boat Patrol meeting will be held at the Culver's Restaurant in Newville on Wednesday, Aug. 7, at 7 p.m.

Edgerton Farmer's Market will be held in Central Park May 18 to Oct. 26 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. They will hold a Fall Fest on Saturday, Sept. 28.

STRICKER

Continued from page 1

ago she was playing tennis and not even thinking about golf and now she's playing college golf," Steve beamed of his daughter. "You've got to tip your hat to her...it's really remarkable."

So with two Badger golfers in the family, which Stricker lady does Steve think is most gifted?

"Our littlest one, Izzi...she's probably got the most talent out of all the girls," Steve said on the podcast. "She's got a beautiful swing and she's doing well."

The 13-year-old golfer has progressed past the first stage of the national Drive, Chip, and Putt competition. Izzi's goal is to earn a place in the National Finals so that the Strickers can attend Augusta with two family members to cheer on. This past weekend, Izzi shot a 2-over 72 at the Lake Ripley Country Club in Cambridge, Wis., to win her first WPGA Junior event.

Steve will look to replicate the youngest Stricker's success at his next tournament, the Bridgestone Senior Players

Championship on July 10-14. A win at the Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio, would be Steve's third major victory this season.



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EDGERTON TOBACCO HERITAGE DAYS ANNUAL LIP-SYNC CONTEST

Saturday, July 20, 2019
Racetrack Park
11:00 am. - 1:00 p.m.

Name(s) and ages _____

Phone number _____

Song _____

Please limit your time to 3-4 minutes and keep your tape/CD out of the sun.

ALL AGES WELCOME!

Contestants will be judged on lip-sync, choreography, appearance and overall performance.

Forms available on the day of the event. These applicants may not be eligible for a trophy.

Questions or Concerns? Contact Georgia Paulson at 884-3024
Please leave message. 1106 Sweeney Road, Edgerton.

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AUGUST 1-4

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CALLING ALL VETERANS
ATTENTION - ATTENTION!!
VFW-Sponsored Float

All Edgerton area Veterans, we want YOU to join us for the Tobacco Heritage Day's Parade.

When: Muster at 10:30 hours, July 21, 2019.

Where: Central Park at the cannon.

Uniform: Casual is fine, if you fit into your uniform please feel free to wear it.

For additional information, please contact any of the following:

Fred Falk 608-868-6525
Sam Wilcox 608-868-6731

We hope to see you all on July 21st!