

**ONEIDA COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
MEETING MINUTES
May 14, 2026
COMMITTEE ROOM #1, 2ND FLOOR, 9:00 a.m.
COMMITTEE ROOM #2, 2ND FLOOR, 1:00 p.m.
ONEIDA COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

Members Present: Guy Hansen, Mike Pazdernik, Jeff Verdoorn, Dan Chronister

Members Absent: Jeff Viegut, Brad Herrold, Bruce Stefonek

Dept. Staff Present: Karl Jennrich, Director; Todd Troskey, Assistant Director; Scott Ridderbusch, Land Use Specialist, Melany Hastreiter, Program Assistant

Guests Present: See Sign in Sheet

Chair Hansen called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meetings Law. Wisconsin Open Meetings Law statement.

Roll call of members.

Mr. Pazdernik: "here"; Mr. Verdoorn: "here"; Mr. Chronister: "here"; and Mr. Hansen: "here".

Approve the agenda.

Motion by Mike Pazdernik, second by Jeff Verdoorn to approve the agenda. With all members present voting "Aye", the motion carried.

Approve meeting minutes of April 30, 2026.

Motion by Jeff Verdoorn, second by Dan Chronister, to approve the meeting minutes of April 30, 2026. With all members present voting "Aye", the motion carried.

Approve meeting minutes of May 7, 2026.

Motion by Jeff Verdoorn, second by Dan Chronister, to approve the meeting minutes of May 7, 2026. With all members present voting "Aye", the motion carried.

Public comment. None.

Old Business:

- a. **Consider status of previous cases.** Todd Troskey provided update on Appeal #25-007.
- b. **Update on zoning statutes and ordinance amendments.** No updates.

Current Business:

- a. **Approve any available bills.** None.
- b. **Consider current and pending appeals to BOA.** Todd Troskey provided brief update.
- c. **Review/revise meeting/hearing calendar.** No changes.

9:10 a.m. Recess for onsite inspection. The Board will travel together to the inspection site at 8284 Wildwood Dr, further described as being part of Government Lots 6 and 7, Section 13, T39N, R5E, PIN MI-1750-14, Town of Minocqua, to conduct an onsite inspection at approximately 10:00 a.m. No public business will be discussed while traveling.

1:00 p.m. – Hold a public hearing on the following appeal:

Appeal No. 2600098 of William W Bennewitz, appellant, appealing the administrative decision to approve home occupation permit #2501153 of David Hermes for property located at 8284 Wildwood Dr, further described as being part of Government Lots 6 and 7, Section 13, T39N, R5E, PIN MI-1750-14, Town of Minocqua.

Chair Hansen stated the meeting would be held in accordance with Wisconsin Open Meetings Law and be recorded. By roll call of members they are also verifying that all materials submitted by appellants and other interested parties have been read and understood and will be taken into consideration in their deliberation.

Roll call of members.

Mr. Pazdernik: “here”; Mr. Chronister: “here”; Mr. Verdoorn: “here”; and Mr. Hansen: “here”.

Members absent were Mr. Viegut, Mr. Herrold, and Mr. Stefonek.

Chair Hansen stated the Board of Adjustment consists of five regular members and two alternates. Anyone wishing to testify must identify themselves by name, address, and interest in the appeal and shall be placed under oath.

Chair Hansen swore in the following: William Bennewitz, appellant; David Hermes, property owner; Wendy Bennewitz, Nena Hermes, neighboring property owners, Karl Jennrich, Todd Trotzke, and Scott Ridderbusch.

An onsite inspection was conducted at approximately 10:00 a.m. on May 14, 2026, at property located at 8284 Wildwood Dr, further described as being part of Government Lots 6 and 7, Section 13, T39N, R5E, PIN MI-1750-14, Town of Minocqua. Board members were present at the onsite inspection along with Planning and Zoning Department staff, William and Wendy Bennewitz, David and Nena Hermes, and neighboring property owners.

Observations by the Board: Vice Chair Pazdernik identified those who were on-site during the inspection and also reported the property boundaries, road and right-of-way, sanitary facilities, and ordinary high water mark were not marked, but were not relative to the findings.

Chair Hansen stated the procedure for the hearing will include testimony from the appellant, followed by testimony from the county, any public comment, and then back to the appellant and the county before closing the meeting to further testimony. The board will then deliberate. If they have any questions, they will ask them, and the parties should address only those questions. The appellant may stay for the deliberation.

William Bennewitz began testimony stating the home business operated by property owner David Hermes does not meet the standards of a permitted home occupation. Mr. Bennewitz outlined reasons the home occupation permit should not have been issued and why the application was inconsistent, incomplete, and misleading in the scope of the actual home business conducted at the property.

Wendy Bennewitz continued testimony providing history and layout of properties off Wildwood Drive. Ms. Bennewitz presented evidence of business activities incompatible with single family residential zoning. Ms. Bennewitz stated approval of the home occupation compliance application did not include providing notice to other parties who could be impacted by the home based business operations.

Additional neighboring property owners provided testimony of traffic and safety concerns on Wildwood Drive, requested that the business operations at 8284 Wildwood Drive be stopped or not allowed, and that the noise disrupts the quiet peace and enjoyment of their property.

David Hermes began testimony outlining his business operations and stated his work is performed as caretaker at other property owner’s properties. Mr. Hermes stated many of the pictures captured on the game cams that

have been placed on the road are of his personal equipment or vehicles and are not used for his business. Mr. Hermes stated when caretaking local properties, he drives his riding lawnmower to the properties to lessen the traffic on Wildwood Drive. Mr. Hermes submitted survey responses received from neighboring property owners as to impact of his business on their life or property, any creation of unsafe conditions, added value, and being an asset to the neighborhood.

Karl Jennrich provided standards for issuance of a home occupation permit. Mr. Jennrich stated the department did perform enforcement actions on Mr. Hermes when complaints were received. Mr. Jennrich provided reasons for why the home occupation permit was issued and stated he believes the permit was issued in accordance with the ordinance.

Scott Ridderbusch provided an explanation for any whiteout used or revisions made on the David Hermes home occupation application when it was submitted.

Neighboring property owner Lorri Deal stated the road is a public road that is there for the public's use.

Wendy Bennewitz stated the cameras were placed on public property or the right-of-way and that there is no invasion of privacy. Ms. Bennewitz stated full-time or part-time residence makes no difference. Ms. Bennewitz reiterated the abundance of equipment being stored outside and the reason for the appeal.

David Hermes spoke again as to working for neighboring properties at other properties and the benefit of having a caretaker that is nearby and that it reduces the traffic flow on the road.

Chair Hansen closed the public portion of the hearing.

Discussion took place on the department's enforcement process when a complaint comes in, the board's options in either revoking or modifying the issued permit, and determining if the permit was issued in error.

Motion by Jeff Verdoorn, second by Dan Chronister, to uphold the county's position to issue the permit and to uphold the permit as written and issued.

The members present voted as follows:

Mr. Verdoorn: "yes"
Mr. Chronister: "yes"
Mr. Pazdernik: "yes"
Mr. Hansen: "no"

Motion carried.

2:15 p.m. Chair Hansen adjourned the meeting.

Guy Hansen, Chair

Mike Pazdernik, Vice Chair (Acting Secretary)