

Town wants commissioner to order railroad crossing repairs

Written by STEVE OSTERMANN
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Concerns with the poor condition of a railroad crossing has prompted the Town of Grafton to file a complaint with the state to expedite repairs.

The complaint, which was filed with the Office of the Commissioner of Railroads, alleges that Wisconsin Central Ltd. has failed to maintain the crossing of tracks at Pleasant Valley Road.

In response, the commissioner's office agreed to hold a public hearing at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, May 28, at Grafton Town Hall, 1102 Bridge St.

The hearing will be used to help determine if the company failed to maintain the crossing and provide an assessment of repair costs.

Town Chairman Lester Bartel said the complaint was filed in February after the town asked the railroad company last October to fix the crossing but received no response.

"It is very, very treacherous. We've received a lot of complaints about it," Bartel said of the crossing.

Roadbeds around the tracks have been deteriorating for years, Bartel said.

"It's one of those things that has needed to be taken care of for a long time," he said.

Wisconsin Central Ltd. is a regional subsidiary of the Canadian Northern Railway.