

**Planning Commission Meeting
Bridgewater Township
Official Minutes
Wednesday, January 20, 2016**

- ❖ John Klockeman called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Members present were John Klockeman, Bruce Morlan, Jim Braun, Kathleen Doran-Norton, Gary Ebling, and Frances Boehning.

- ❖ Bruce Morlan made a motion to approve the agenda, Kathleen Doran-Norton seconded, all approved.
- ❖ Bruce Morlan made a motion to approve the minutes from December 16, 2015, Kathleen Doran-Norton seconded, all approved.
- ❖ The Open Forum was opened and closed at 7:02pm.
- ❖ Public Hearing – 7:02pm – Public hearing for the TEPP Permit for Rice County.
 - Condition change from last year – government agency does not pay bond.
 - Same conditions apply as last year.
 - Add weed control to list of conditions – area to be free of noxious and invasive weeds.
 - Public hearing closed at 7:08pm.
 - Bruce Morlan made a motion to approve the TEPP permit with amendment to add weed control, Kathleen Doran-Norton seconded, all approved.

- ❖ Old Business –
 - Community Solar Gardens – Discussion on proposed ordinance.
 - Overview by Minnesota Solar LLC regarding their company and their current project on the Koltavy land. Ordinance will go to public hearing in February then to the Board of Supervisors on March 9, 2016. Minnesota Solar LLC will return to review projects on March 30, 2016.
 - Update on Rice Creek Overlay District ordinance process.
 - Jim Braun reviewed the results of the January 16, 2016, meeting. Per the meeting, the members of the committee stated that they would like to stay with the DNR requirements instead of a Bridgewater ordinance. The committee citizens are willing to look at the EOR study.
 - Planning and Zoning commission needs direction from the Board of Supervisors to move forward with mining and sensitive groundwater and creek issues.
 - A meeting will be set up with EOR and interested members and citizens.

 - Rice County Comprehensive Plan project
 - Rice County is updating demographics for the project.

 - Maximum size for accessory structures – Discussion on proposed ordinance.
 - The public hearing for the ordinance will take place next month.

- ❖ New Business
 - Noted that Kmart will be closing in April, 2016.
 - SMC – Jim Braun will send a letter regarding the CUP will be rescinded if they are not in compliance.
 - Discussion of status of condemned property on Highway 19.
 - Discussed current limitations to ordinance.

- The Board of Supervisors will give direction to the Planning and Zoning Commission regarding next steps on this issue.
- Status of moving to a seven person Planning and Zoning commission.
 - This will be discussed and motioned on during the next Board meeting.

❖ Bruce Morlan made a motion to adjourn, Kathleen Doran-Norton seconded, all approved. – 8:37pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frances Boehning
Bridgewater Township Clerk.