

BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
7:00 p.m. Bridgewater Township Government Center
Thursday, June 29, 2017
Official Minutes

- ❖ John Klockeman called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Members present were Larry Alderks, Bruce Morlan, John Klockeman, Ray Larson, Kurt Schrader, John Holden, Jim Braun, Carolyn Braun, and Frances Boehning.
- ❖ Larry Alderks made a motion to approve the agenda, Bruce Morlan seconded, all approved.
- ❖ Larry Alderks made a motion to approve the minutes of March 30, 2017, with revisions, Bruce Morlan seconded, all approved.

- ❖ Open Forum: None

- ❖ Public Hearings:
 - David & Christy Baerg – Variance Request
 - Jim Braun reviewed the staff report regarding the variance request. Jim Braun drove by the lot this evening to review the lot. A number of additional houses in the area have double garages. The lot does drop off so a retaining wall would be needed if approved. The addition would bring the building within five feet of the lot line which would necessitate the need to enter the neighbor's property if work was needed on the side. Discussion was held regarding the retaining wall.
 - David Baerg spoke with his neighbor regarding an agreement to add siding down to within 12 inches of the ground.
 - Public hearing closed at 7:35pm.
 - Jim Braun suggested that the variance request be tabled until better plans and pictures are available regarding the lot configuration and building plans.
 - The Planning Commission will need to determine the effect of the addition on the neighbor's property.
 - Larry Alderks made a motion to table the variance request until more information is available including water management, effect of placing retaining wall on property line, determine feasibility of putting garage on the south side of the home, Bruce Morlan seconded, all approved.
 - Jim Braun will work with the Baerg family to bring additional information to the next meeting.

- ❖ Old Business – None

❖ New Business

- Joint Powers Agreement – Bridgewater and Rice County - Update
 - Jim Braun spoke regarding the issue with Rice County and jurisdiction over C.U.Ps and T.E.Ps.
 - Currently, Bridgewater Township does not have jurisdiction.
 - Per a recent meeting with Julie Runkle, the state statutes state that we need to have a joint powers agreement in order to allow Bridgewater to have jurisdiction over the C.U.P.s and T.E.Ps.
 - As of this time, Keith Johnson is in compliance with the current C.U.P. The township will continue to monitor this.
- Jim Braun noted that solid waste should be taken care of by the county. In recent years, there have been a few garbage houses the township has overseen clean up on. Expenses for these efforts will be reimbursed by the county in the future.
- Carolyn Braun will look into the buffer zones ordinance in reaction to a recent article in the Northfield News.

❖ Miscellaneous

- Rice County Comp Plan
 - Carolyn Braun has not received any new information from Rice County regarding the new comp plan.
- Jim and Carolyn Braun have officially retired from Athens Township.
- Noxious Weeds
 - Carolyn Braun will look into any reference to the spread of noxious weeds in the current ordinance.
 - John Holden reviewed the spraying and mowing efforts the township is using to control noxious weeds.
- Landfill expansion
 - A discussion was held regarding the recent information regarding the proposed expansion of the Rice County Landfill. Carolyn Braun and John Klockman are looking into the expansion and proposed leachate spraying.
- Dundas Solar/Prawer farm.
 - The township is still waiting for information from the Dundas Solar Farm regarding landscape plans.
- Comment was made regarding the need for a monitor/t.v to be used with a computer to display geographical information and plans when discussion is held. It was also noted that additional chairs were needed to seat the whole commission.

- ❖ Adjournment – next meeting will take place on Thursday, July 27, 2017. Larry Alderks made a motion to adjourn at 8:40pm, Ray Larson seconded, all approved.