

**Bridgewater Township  
Comprehensive Plan Meeting #3  
County of Rice, State of Minnesota  
Bridgewater Town Hall  
June 1, 2019  
Official Minutes**

Call to order at 9:00 am

Roll Call: John Holden, Glen Castore, Gary Ebling, Frances Boehning, John Klockeman, Bruce Morlan, Larry Alderks, 8 township residents, John McCarthy and Janelle Teppen.

- Call to Order
  - The meeting was called to order by the moderator, John Klockeman.
- Comprehensive Plan Presentation.
  - The Township slide show regarding Parks & Recreation and Environmental Resources was presented by John Klockeman.
- Discussion during/following presentation
  - Glen Castore noted that the creeks in the township are both a benefit (recreational) and a detriment (flooding damage).
  - Kathy Albers noted that, with the changing weather, thought will need to be given to how we preserve these creeks.
  - Kathleen Doran Norton reviewed that less impervious surface is important to the health of Rice Creek. Building lot sizes would need to be reviewed. Could the Township identify a green corridor along the creek?
  - John Klockeman reviewed the definition of impervious surface and how it impacts Rice Creek.
  - Kathy Albers would like to see special zoning adopted to preserve the creeks in the township.
  - The maps showing the current buffers and floodplain in the township were reviewed.
  - Glen Castore noted that Rice Creek is used for both fishing and walking while Wolf Creek is used for fishing.
  - Kathy Albers requested that access needs to be created for people to use the creeks and the area is currently all private land. John Klockeman asked for the resident's input regarding interest in having access to the creeks.
    - Kathy Albers suggested a public park between Heath and Rice Creek along the bike trail. Walking paths would also be nice.
    - Bruce Morlan asked where the line between public and private property was in relation to the creeks.
    - Gary Ebling reviewed that currently the waterways are public land up to the edge of the ordinary high-water mark.
    - Glen Castore stated that the area in question could be coming up for sale in the near future. The Township could look into this as a future park or obtaining an easement across it. Audience was generally positive regarding this.
  - John Klockeman noted that next to the Rice Creek is a solar garden. He asked for feedback regarding the desirability of this. Limited feedback, generally positive.

- Glen Castore remarked that there are a number of gravel pits in the area. Suggested that these could be used as future parks also.
- Kathleen Doran-Norton asked that an expectation be set that reclaimed gravel pits need to be, at least in part, taxable developments. For example; look at putting a business or higher density housing on part of the land.
- Bruce Morlan asked how we help maintain ag land and keep it sustainable.
  - Glen Castore reviewed that information could be shared with farmers regarding managing land to limit chemicals being washed away and maintaining fertile top soil.
- Solar – John Klockeman asked the residents opinion regarding solar.
  - Kathleen Doran-Norton stated that the state had started looking into standards for land management under the arrays.
  - She also noted that Xcel’s current plans do not show continued growth in community solar. They are looking into larger utility size solar arrays.
  - Bruce Morlan noted that wind turbines may increase.
  - John Holden asked that the Township look into how solar will be decommissioned.
- Gravel Pits
  - The current active gravel pits were reviewed.
  - Kathy Albers asked that the Township continue to control noxious weeds such as Wild Parsnip.
    - Mary Klockeman asked if anything was being done to educate people regarding wild parsnip.
  - Kathy Albers asked that the township work on clearing the road right of ways.
  - A suggestion was made to create a natural park at one of the old gravel pits along the proposed bike trail between Faribault and Dundas.
    - The residents would like stops/rest areas along the bike trail.

Adjourn

Chair	
Clerk	