

**Bridgewater Township
Comprehensive Plan Meeting #4
County of Rice, State of Minnesota
Bridgewater Town Hall
June 29, 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, Jeff Johnson, 6 township residents.

- Call to Order
 - The meeting was called to order by the moderator, John Klockeman.
- Comprehensive Plan Presentation.
 - The Township slide show regarding Transportation was presented by John Klockeman.
- Discussion during/following presentation
 - Tracy Kochendorfer – How many farms are in the township and how many are farmed by the residents living there?
 - Teresa Swanson – will additional houses be built in the township and where are they planned for?
 - John Klockeman noted that the Rice County zoning currently does not allow cluster houses in the Township, however, if the township incorporates this will be reviewed for possible developments.
 - The current road system was reviewed and discussed.
 - A short discussion was held regrading transfer of roads between the township and Rice County. The possibility of paving Decker was also discussed.
 - Glen Castore mentioned the possibility of a future interchange at Cty Rd 9 and I 35. Rice County feels this is a possibility in 10-15 years.
 - Teresa Swanson noted the need for a road around Northfield.
 - Jeff Johnson mentioned that a road around Northfield makes sense as the implement dealers are on the NE side of Northfield.
 - The need for wide roads to accommodate farm equipment and trucks was reviewed.
 - Resident – While it is important to take care of the Ag businesses, what about the CSA and other small businesses?
 - Resident – Should Agritourism (small CSAs, alpaca farms/fiber business. . . .) be a focus also? There are different needs in the township depending on the different quadrants. In the area around the Big Woods there are people horseback riding and biking.
 - John Klockeman noted that the bike trail will following the railway.
 - A request was made to ensure that in the Comp Plan, different sizes of agriculture are encouraged.
 - A resident mentioned that the township should look for opportunities to widen some roads to accommodate farm equipment, bikers, and horseback riding. (a type of intermodal system)
 - Glen Castore mentioned that Hiawatha Bus Service could be contracted to come out to the township. The fee would be dependent on the services provided.
 - The Supervisors reviewed future development areas.

- A resident asked what does a farmer do if they wish to retire and there is no one that can afford to purchase the entire farm. Could the township split the farm and sell to smaller CSAs?

Adjourn

Chair	
Clerk	