

**Bridgewater Township Work Session
With Planning Commission
County of Rice, State of Minnesota
September 14, 2019
Official Minutes**

Roll Call: John Klockeman, Glen Castore, Carolyn Braun, Frances Boehning

- Comprehensive Plan for Bridgewater - Outline
 - It was decided to stay with the current vision statement.
 - Agriculture
 - Agriculture is the primary focus of the township
 - Maintain building/structure integrity of farms in the interest of public safety
 - Maintain farm to market transportation
 - Maintain a low tax burden to ensure viability of farming
 - Minimize disruption of agriculture land
 - Support ALL scales of agriculture
 - Establish a standard of land quality rating and be consistent
 - Continue to refine the definition of “rural character” as it relates to various land uses
 - Residential
 - Provide opportunities for housing without disrupting agriculture production efficiencies
 - Work with local government authorities to explore housing density options:
 - Cluster housing
 - Affordable (work force) housing
 - Senior housing
 - Work to ensure equitable enforcement building standards and set backs
 - Good neighbor policy
 - Business/Commercial
 - Diversification of tax base
 - Responsible utilization of natural resources and infrastructure with future generations in mind
 - Work with local government units to diversify zoning map options for township
 - Support businesses that are consistent with rural character of township
 - Maintain owner occupied businesses that are in character with rural character
 - Add in table of current and projected land uses
 - Demographics
 - Glen Castore will send Carolyn the demographic information
 - Natural Resources and Open Space
 - Landfill
 - Gravel Mines
 - Rivers & Streams
 - Cannon River Wilderness Area
 - Rice Creek
 - Wolf Creek
 - Spring Creek
 - Heath Creek

- Spring Brook
- Hoover Dump Site – continue to search for partners in cleaning up
- Goals
 - Park like restoration of abandoned gravel mines
 - Maintain and improve air and water quality
 - Preserve natural spaces to retain rural character of the township
- Sewer & Water
 - Transition to common septic and common wells
 - Storm water management
 - Effective best practice for storm water management that speaks to maintaining water quality
 - Storm water management in support of efficient agriculture production
 - Continue to improve accommodation of increasingly severe weather events
- Transportation
 - Maintaining high quality farm to market route
 - As usage patterns dictate, the township will evaluate transitioning roads to other jurisdictions.
 - Glen Castore would like to know which state statute says what the condition of the road needs to be when it is turned back. Carolyn will research this.
 - Maintain long term road maintenance program (include maps)
 - Respect farm traffic
 - Incorporate road policy
 - Road policy will recognize all uses including agriculture and pedestrian use.
- Parks and Recreation
 - Mill Town Trail – Bike and pedestrian
 - Ensure user safety while maintaining natural character /environmental beauty to promote bike and pedestrian pathways
 - Support/enhance the use of the Cannon River Wilderness Park
 - Add maps showing parks
- Community Facilities
 - New town hall – evaluate need for town hall and community area
- Economic Development
 - Broaden tax base to ensure sustainability of agriculture as the primary form of business
 - Encourage development of a broader cross section of housing stock
 - Industrial
 - Encourage development to broaden tax base
 - Develop processes and procedural steps to ensure the development is in keeping with the rural character
 - Support the local agricultural economy

Adjourn

Chair	
Clerk	