

BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
Bridgewater Township Government Center
Thursday, July 30, 2020
Official Minutes

- ❖ Bruce Morlan called the meeting to order at 7:00
- ❖ Members present were Ray Larson, Larry Alderks, Kurt Schrader, Frances Boehning, Bruce Morlan, and Jim and Carolyn Braun. Supervisors present were Kathleen Kopseng and Tracy Jonkman.
- ❖ Guests present were James Bull, Henry Bull, and Nate Watters
- ❖ Ray Larson made a motion to approve the agenda, Kurt Schrader seconded, all approved.
- ❖ Kurt Schrader made a motion to approve the minutes of June 25, 2020, Ray Larson seconded, all approved.

- ❖ Open Forum: None. Closed at 7:09 pm. No Comment

- ❖ Introduction from Kathleen Kopseng. Supervisor Kopseng introduced herself to the Planning Commission and reviewed how she will be able to support the Commission.

- ❖ Public Hearings:
 - Ordinance amendments for agricultural related businesses and agricultural tourism businesses.
 - Carolyn Braun reviewed the definitions and background of the ordinance.
 - A discussion was held regarding Rice County's limitations for an I.U.P for ag tourism.
 - A discussion was held regarding anticipated attendance and whether the daily attendance should be a maximum and one time or total attendance over the event.
 - Bruce Morlan requested that language be added to the ordinance for future Planning Commissions to review and consider the number of vehicles on site and the maximum number of people on site over the course of the day.
 - It was decided that family parties do not need a permit.
 - It was agreed by the Planning Commission that outdoor amplified music would not be permitted.
 - A discussion was held regarding concerts or sporting events in a C.U.P. It was determined that they would only be allowed as specified by the C.U.P.

- A discussion was held regarding notification of upcoming events to neighbors. It was decided that the details of the notification would be address in the specific C.U.P.
 - A discussion was held regarding why C.U.Ps were needed and if the Township could limit it to I.U.Ps.
 - Larry Alderks made a motion to approve the ordinance amendments for agricultural related businesses and agricultural tourism businesses as agreed to in this meeting, Kurt Schrader seconded, all approved.
 - Conditional use permit for an agricultural related business and a conditional use permit for an agricultural tourism business at 4609 135th Street E., Dundas. Keepsake Cidery owned by Nate Watters and Tracy Jonkman.
 - Jim Braun reviewed that the driveway to Keepsake had been improved.
 - The information provided by Jim and Carolyn Braun was reviewed.
 - The current business and traffic were discussed.
 - Mr. Bull noted the increase in traffic and affect it had on his property.
 - Larry Alderks asked Keepsake what the future plans of the business are. Keepsake responded that they are looking at continuing to grow the business but remain rural in nature.
 - The Planning Commission determined that the following information would be necessary to proceed with discussion of the C.U.P.
 - If standards for common traffic on gravel roads are available
 - A traffic study on 135th to be conducted
 - A professional to review the site circulation
 - A statement of what Keepsake’s future plans and goals are
 - Ray Larson made a motion to table the Public Hearing to the next Planning Commission meeting, Kurt Schrader seconded, all approved.
- ❖ Old Business: Moved to next meeting
- ❖ New Business: None
- ❖ Miscellaneous: - Mining Permits
 - Jim Braun reviewed that the township has authority over all current active mining permits. This means that all active mines must adhere to Township Ordinances. Jim Braun will look into how the lake at Castle Rock mines has grown. They are attempting to remediate land by turning it into a lake.
 - Jim Braun will report on this next month.
- ❖ Adjourn – Larry Alderks made a motion to adjourn at 9:23 pm, Ray Larson seconded, all approved.