

BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING
Bridgewater Township Government Center
Thursday, November 20, 2019
Official Minutes

- ❖ John Klockeman called the meeting to order at 7:00
- ❖ Members present were John Klockeman, Ray Larson, Larry Alderks, Jeff Johnson, Kurt Schrader, Frances Boehning, Bruce Morlan, and Jim & Carolyn Braun. Supervisor present was Kathleen Kopseng.
- ❖ Bruce Morlan made a motion to approve the agenda with additions to the Miscellaneous section, Larry Alderks seconded, all approved.
- ❖ Larry Alderks made a motion to approve the minutes of August 29, 2019, Bruce Morlan seconded the motion, all approved.
- ❖ Open Forum: None.
- ❖ Public Hearings: None
- ❖ Old Business:
 - Comprehensive Plan Discussion
 - Carolyn Braun reviewed the focus of the comp plan.
 - Larry Alderks if climate preservation would be addressed in the plan.
 - John Klockeman reviewed the main topics to be discussed during the meeting.
 - Topic 1 – Honoring the Township’s heritage
 - Topic 1b – request to add diversity of scale and type to the sentence.
 - Topic 1c – request to add protecting rural lifestyle to sentence. Modify sentence to read “Working with surrounding jurisdictions as informed and connected neighbors.
 - Topic 2 – Maintaining the rural character
 - Topic 2b – Open natural space and long views affording elbow room.
 - Topic 2c – Ensuring that taxation is balanced with services without compromising the ability of citizens to maintain a rural lifestyle.
 - Topic 3 – Small community values.
 - Topic 5b – Supporting each other as allies and helping out in times of need.
 - Remove Topic 3c.
 - Topic 4 – Preserving and enhancing its natural beauty and resources

- Topic 4a – Identifying our natural assets, quantifying them, and protecting them.
 - Maintain, enhance, and restore natural amenities that create the quality of rural lifestyle for future generations.
 - Practice mindfulness of the human impact on the natural environment that informs decisions moving forward.
 - Add something about external forces.
 - Add something about sustainability.
- ❖ New Business:
- Discussion on Northfield Climate Action Plan
 - Bruce Morlan reviewed the new Northfield Climate Action Plan
 - A short discussion was held regarding the impact of this on the township.
- ❖ Miscellaneous:
- Bike Trail
 - Reviewed the funds to purchase additional land for a bike trail.
 - Wolf Creek Auto
 - A discussion was held regarding how public comments are handled.
 - Solar Garden
 - Discussed how the current C.U.P conditions and standards are created and enforced.
 - Xcel Energy altering the “value of Solar” rate.
 - Staff will look into ramifications of this rate change on the township.
 - Affordable housing
 - A short discussion was held regarding the current state of affordable housing.
 - Compliance updates
 - A request was made to have Jim Braun check on Jesse Jacobson’s property.
 - An update was given on the status of the house on 1st Timberlane. The house will be secured by early December.
 - The house on Armstrong road will be referred to legal action.
 - Fireside Orchard
 - Jim Braun reviewed the request from Fireside Orchard to produce and sell hard cider. Mr. Braun advised Fireside to apply to Rice County for permission to achieve this. After Rice County gives approval, Fireside will need to come before the Board of Supervisors.
 - December meeting
 - Due to Holiday schedules, the next Planning Commission meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 18th.
 - Bruce Morlan requested that the possibility of a moratorium on solar be discussed at the next meeting.
- ❖ Adjourn – Bruce Morlan made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ray Larson seconded, all approved.