

*Bridgewater Township Planning Commission
County of Rice, State of Minnesota
May 25, 2023
Official Minutes*

Call to order

- 1) Pledge of Allegiance
- 2) Roll Call: John Klockeman, Bruce Morlan, Ray Larson, Nate Watters, Larry Alderks. Ex-Officio Mike Little, Staff Cindy Nash, and Lori Noreen. Guests: Sam Daly, Lori Davies, Jane Rydholm
- 3) Approval of Agenda
 - a) Bruce Morlan made a motion to approve the Agenda, Ray Larson seconded, all approved.
- 4) Approval of Minutes: April 25, 2023:
 - a) Ray Larson made a motion to approve the Minutes of April 25, 2023, Bruce Morlan seconded, all approved.
- 5) Open Forum:
 - a) Northfield Kennels / Believet CUP Concept
 - i) Sam Daly of Believet introduced himself and provided a brief background of his non-profit organization, Believet. He explained that they train dogs as service dogs for veterans. They are hoping to increase in size to have the ability to train more dogs and help more veterans as they have outgrown their current facility.
 - ii) Lori Davies of Believet introduced herself and provided a detailed design of the building they are hoping to construct. The current facility will continue to be used as well.
 - iii) It was mentioned that there is a concept to have an additional small building added to board non-Believet trained dogs as a way of helping to fund the expenses of the organization. This portion of the company could produce tax revenue for the Township.
 - iv) It was mentioned that there is a possibility of an on-site vet that would provide services to the dogs that are being trained.
 - v) There was discussion regarding the possibly increase in traffic if the facility increases.
 - vi) Cindy Nash explained that a site plan is necessary to review the concept of a new Conditional Use Permit for Believet. There was discussion as to what this would entail for Believet to provide to the Township for review and possible approval.
 - vii) There was discussion as to the process of the CUP application, once submitted, and timing of it all.
 - viii) Open Forum was closed at 8:00pm
- 6) Old Business:
 - a) Rural Industrial update
 - i) Cindy Nash stated that the EAW draft has been received and being reviewed at this time. It is now expected to have a completed EAW by late June or early July.
 - ii) Cindy Nash mentioned that she and Glen Castore will have a meeting with RLS on Friday, May 26th and will provide a scheduled timeline to the Committee after they receive a better understanding at the meeting.

- iii) Cindy Nash explained that RLS is still reluctant in signing an Escrow Agreement with Bridgewater Township.
 - (1) Larry Alderks made a motion to recommend to the Supervisors to provide a written statement showing the current expenses incurred by the Township year to date for the possible RLS project. Bruce Morlan seconded, all approved.
 - iv) Mike Little discussed the decision by the Supervisors to work with Ed Koltavy to purchase 5 acres in Comus Park for a space to provide the utilities needed for the area.
- b) Comp Plan:
- i) Discussion was held as the plan was reviewed in detail.
 - ii) The question of where the Table of Contents of the Comp Plan was.
 - (1) It was answered that the Table of Contents is created and will be included once all changes have been complete so that the TOC is accurate.
 - iii) There was a question of font, size and spacing with a suggestion that all are uniform throughout the Comp Plan.
 - iv) The remaining pages of the Comp Plan were reviewed by the Commissioners with notations of changes.
 - v) It was discussed that the Future Land Use map will be completed and inserted into the Comp Plan.
 - vi) It was discussed that Cindy Nash will complete the updates to the Comp Plan with the changes suggested. If there are any further changes or updates the Committee will send them to her and she will update the Comp Plan for a final review at the June meeting with the hope have a Public Hearing in July.
- 7) New Business:
- a) John Klockeman discussed the landfill fire that started on Monday, May 22, 2023, and is still burning. He provided a letter in email form that he wrote regarding his concern of the effects the fire will have on those residing near the landfill. The letter also suggested an alternative strategy to put the fire out other than water suppression.
 - i) The Committee provided their input on the fire with mention that it is believed that the suggestion of 'Soil Covering' is the next step to suppress the current fire.
- 8) Updates and Miscellaneous:
- a) It was mentioned that there is a probably that the next meeting will a Public Hearing regarding the Castle Rock Mine and the Believet CUP.
 - b) John Klockeman stated that he will not be able to attend the next scheduled meeting on June 29th, 2023.
 - i) It was discussed and decided that June's meeting will be changed to Thursday, June 22nd, 2023, at 7pm.

Adjourn:

- Ray Larson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15pm, Bruce Morlan seconded, all approved.