

Planning Commission Meeting
Bridgewater Township
Official Minutes
Friday, March 21, 2014

- ❖ John Klockeman called the meeting to order at 7:05pm. Members present were John Klockeman, Jeff Stremcha, Ray Larson, Bruce Morlan, Jim Braun, Carolyn Braun, and Kathleen Doran-Norton.
- ❖ The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- ❖ Jeff Stremcha made a motion to approve the minutes, Bruce Morlan seconded it, all approved with one typo correction.
- ❖ A motion was made by Bruce Morlan to approve the agenda, Ray Larson seconded, all approved.
- ❖ No open forum was held and there were no public hearings.
- ❖ *Old Business: Discussion on Agricultural Tourism Ordinance*
 - Carolyn Braun is looking for clarification on how they work. She is looking for feedback from the board by the end of the month on what items we would like to prohibit.
- ❖ *New Business*
 - *Discussion of Biking in Bridgewater Township*
 - There are groups in the township that are interested in racing, educational, and recreational biking. They are interested in converting old abandoned roadways, dumps, and gravel pits into biking areas. We have an ordinance that was completed awhile ago, but we do not currently have maps on bike trails. Would it be possible to create biking maps that the public could use to find safe routes? The board has affirmed that Northfield and Dundas have trails and greenways. Griff Wigley from Northfield is connected to the Cannon River Off Road Cycling and Trails group. They would like to transform the old gravel pit into a mountain bike area. Money is available from the Rice County Gravel Tax for reclaiming old gravel pits. Additional comments were received from the public regarding the lack of trails from Bridgewater Heights to Northfield and Dundas. It is unsafe for people to bike and/or walk along County Road 1.
 - *Discuss an ordinance change that allows TEP Permits to be renewed every three to five years with yearly inspections?*
 - Jim Braun commented that the county does TEP Permits every five years with yearly inspections. Jim is OK with the current ordinance, but the Pit owners would prefer to not renew the permits every year. Jim Braun commented that we could move to yearly renewals for the first three years, then if they have a clean record move to

every five years. Any new owner would need to start the process again with yearly renewals. Inspections would move to twice yearly, spring and fall.

➤ *Renew and update the Township Comprehensive Plan*

- Carolyn Braun commented that we need to start creating a schedule of when items on the comprehensive plan will be completed. During the next ReOrg meeting, it will be discussed how in depth the comprehensive plan should be.

❖ *Miscellaneous: Topics for possible implementation 2014-2015*

➤ *Solar Array Ordinance*

- This should be a priority as during the Annual Meeting a member of the public voiced a desire to install a solar array on his property.

➤ *Bike and Trail Map*

- This was discussed in the Biking in Bridgewater Township listed under new business.

➤ *Review Township map for potential expansion/rezoning to rural residential areas.*

- No comment was made on this.

➤ *Identify places in the Township (i.e. Hwy 3 and CSAH 8 intersection) where old CUP's for commercial exist. Create small commercial zones.*

- This should be reviewed when the Hwy 3 CSAH 8 intersection is redone.

➤ *Rezone Hoover Dump for light industrial for more reclamation opportunities.*

- MPCA needs to be completed first. We also need to know where the county currently stands.

➤ *Trout Stream Ordinance and Storm Water/ Flooding*

- This is a priority. We should have a policy in the comprehensive plan.
- Kathy Larson is working on writing and study/ordinance on Rice Creek. Carolyn Braun plans to meet with her in May.

➤ *Gravel pit restoration visioning*

- This should be placed in the comprehensive plan.

➤ *Dark Skies Ordinance*

- This needs to be tied in with plans/ordinances with the commercial areas.

➤ *Discuss formation of a Road Committee*

- This will need to go to the Board of Supervisors.
- We need to look into laying out a structure of guidance by determining what our 20+ year plan looks like.
- We also need to tie in adjacent land use and commercial districts when looking at roads.

➤ *Comus Junction*

- We should add this into the comprehensive plan.

❖ *Adjournment*

- Ray Larson moved to adjourn at 8:35pm, Bruce Morlan seconded and all approved.

❖ Next meeting will be held on April 25, 2014, at 7pm in the Bridgewater Township Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

Frances Boehning

Bridgewater Township Clerk.