

TOWN OF BRIDGE CREEK

Bridge Creek Comprehensive Planning Commission Meeting

June 3, 2020

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Fred Poss
2. **Roll call** of Commission members and alternates: Present Ricky Strauch, Fred Poss, Carol Peuse, Harvey Kurtz and Gordie O'Brien. Absent Steve Erdman. Alternates in attendance: Tom Crowe and Christine Yellowthunder.
3. The **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.
4. Motion by Gordie O'Brien seconded by Ricky Strauch to approve **Agenda & Proper Posting**. All yes, motion carried.
5. Motion by Ricky Strauch seconded by Gordie O'Brien to approve the **June 3, 2020 Meeting Minutes** as presented. All yes, motion carried.
6. **Appoint Vice Chairman Position:** Motion by Gordie O'Brien seconded by Ricky Strauch to accept the resignation of Tom Peterson with regret and appoint Chuck Forseth as a member of the Commission in Tom Peterson place. All yes motion carried. Chairman Fred Poss asked for volunteers for the Vice Chairman position. Gordie O'Brien was appointed by Fred Poss as the new Vice Chairman.
7. **Opportunity for Public Input:** None
8. **Discussion of Preferred Comprehensive Plan Formats:** Discussion was held on the different formats used in the Comprehensive Plan process for each of the elements. A motion was made by Gordie O'Brien and seconded by Ricky Strauch to adopt the Eau Claire County Format to be used in the process of preparation of each of the elements. All yes, motion carried.
9. **Extra Territorial meeting** was held on February 27 at 7:00 p.m. at the Augusta City Hall. Members of this committee have directed John Wilcox attorney for the City of Augusta to be reviewing and developing ordinance suggestions for the next Extra Territorial meeting. There will be an update at the July 7, 2020 Commission meeting.
10. **Review and Clarify Plan Writing Expectations:** Chairman Fred Poss gave an overview of plan writing expectations on the nine key elements for the Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Bridge Creek. The current Bridge Creek Town Board successfully applying for a planning grant to support two community surveys. One at the beginning of the process and seconded one at the end of the process. These surveys will involve the nine key elements in the development of each survey. Both the Amish and the English communities have been involved in this process to address the many problems that face the Town of Bridge Creek and at the same time embrace all of the positive things that are going on in the township. It must be understood that the work of the Commission is not to write any new laws, requirements or policies. The purpose of the Commission is to investigate and gather information so that a sound decisions by the community and the town board on these important issues can be made using good data. We need to know where we have been and where we are going next.
11. **Discuss Resident Survey Response and Processing Efforts:** Ron Williams with Williams Engineering state that there was 1070 surveys were sent out. 601 surveys were returned which is about a 60% return rate. There were about 300 self-printed surveys. The reason for this was that only one copy was sent to a household. The majority of households only sent back one survey. All of the surveys that were timely sent in are being tabulated. Williams Engineering

will be doing graphical display of the data. We will be able to see how many responds to each question and the number that each person picked for each category. There will be a separate tally sheet that will have all of miscellaneous comments basically summarize by some type of category and the number of comments that were received. One thing that was noted was that there was a lot of survey data that was hand written not photo copied with exactly the same answers. There was literally 100 people that said exactly the same thing. It would appear that about 100 people worked together to say the same thing. It will be noted in the report that there are some abnormal inconsistency in a large amount of answers. The purpose of the survey was to get individual opinions not group opinions. Survey update from Williams Engineering will be presented at the July 7, 2020 Commission meeting.

12. **Housing Element** presented by Christine Yellowthunder. She reviewed the Assessment of Bridge Creek Housing Stock, Occupancy Characteristics. She further reported that in 2019 there were 117 Amish homes with population of 710 individuals with an average family of 6.2 individuals per family. Christine updated by road observation in March of 2020 that she counted 133 Amish homes within the Township of Bridge Creek. Christine attached a map of the township with her findings. The Town of Bridge Creek has the second highest concentration of Amish living in Wisconsin. The Western Wisconsin Comprehensive Plan (2010) projects the estimated population growth to be 20.8 % within Eau Claire County based on historical trends. She further review the Housing Opportunities for Seniors, Low Income and Disabled Residents some examples are tiny homes or affordable multi dwelling complexes for seniors, low income and disabled individuals. There will be an item 5 added to Christine's report in regards to flipping homes. Chairman Fred Poss complimented Christine on going above and beyond on her work for counting houses. He also thanked her for her attention to detail and accuracy.
13. **Utilities and Community Facilities Element** was presented by Gordie O'Brien in draft form. Gordie reviewed the Utilities & Community Facilities, Sanitary Sewer Systems, Storm Water Management, Water Supply, Solid Waste Disposal & Recycling Facilities, Parks, Open Spaces & Recreation Facilities, Telecommunication Facilities, Energy Facilities & Resources, Renewable Energy Sources, Cemeteries, Health Care Facilities, Child Care Facilities, Police & Emergency Services, Libraries, Other Government Facilities and Schools. The Town of Bridge Creek enrollment in the Augusta Public schools has declined by 27% in the past five years from 176 to 129 students. The Mennonite Church School has increase enrollment by 24% from 29 to 36 students. The Amish schools have increased enrollment by 16% in the past four years from 247 to 286 students. There will be some additions in the future to complete this element. Chairman Fred Poss thanked Gordie O'Brien for a very thorough job on this element.
14. **Opportunity for Public Input:** None
15. **Review, Direct and Delegate Tasks Generated from Meeting:**
16. **Schedule Next Meeting and Review Agenda items:** The Agriculture & Natural Resource elements will be presented at the July meeting by Ricky Strauch and Fred Poss. Williams Engineering will make copies for the Agriculture & Natural Resources elements. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 7, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.
17. Meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.