

Minutes
approved 2-25-2020

Town of Bridge Creek

Bridge Creek Comprehensive Planning Commission Meeting

January 14, 2020

1. Meeting was called to order by Chairman Fred Poss at 6:35 p.m.
2. **Roll Call** was as follows: Present Steve Erdman, Fred Poss, Ricky Strauch, Tom Peterson, Carol Peuse, and Harvey Kurtz. Absent Gordie O'Brien. Alternates in attendance: Terry Rouleau, Chuck Forseth and Tom Crowe. Also present was Ron Williams from William Engineering Services LLC.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.
4. **Approval of the Agenda:** Motion was made by Ricky Strauch seconded by Steve Erdman to approve the agenda and proper posting. All yes, motion carried.
 - a. Informational item: The Commission has decided to also post agendas at the Augusta Police Department in Augusta
5. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:** Motion was made by Tom Peterson and seconded by Steve Erdman to approve the December 17, 2019 meeting minutes with the addition under # 7 (h) of Steve Erdman's name to Land Use committee element. All yes motion carried.
6. **Discussion/Clarification of following items:**
 - a. **How are the Amish to receive copies of emails:** Harvey Kurtz had a question on receiving emails. Kathy took copies of the emails to his home so the problem has been resolved.
 - b. **Verification of Mailing and email address of Commission members:** Email and mailing addresses list will be compiled of Commission members and Alternates for the February Commission meeting. All emails from the public will go to the Chairman of the Planning Commission. If you have other concerns please contact the Chairman and he will see that it is addressed.
7. **Opportunity for Public Input:** Chairman Poss had four points that he would like to make for the public input. When we sat down with Mr. Williams it became very clear that zoning is quite an issue with everybody. It also became clear that zoning is understood or misunderstood. What do you think would be the best way to begin education of people in the community about the advantages and disadvantages of zoning and to look for a way to deepen everyone's understanding of it. Another point would be when we begin talking about the Issues and Opportunities element again if there is some input that you have regarding and issue or an opportunity in the community beyond what has been discussed or something that you would like to see emphasized please speak to that. I also would like you think about highway conditions and transportation in general. The survey committee talked about Amish buggies and how we can make this a better situation for the Amish. Is there anyone who would like to speak at this time? Elaine Gregor liked that there are more lights on the buggies. She also stated that she has lived a lot of places where there is a lot of traffic and if I have to slow down for 5 minutes I don't have a problem with it. Terry Rouleau stated that he had seen a few petitions floating around about the Amish buggies being required to have diapers and that they would like to see that the manure is not dumped in the ditch. Terry Rouleau felt that if they would talk to the farmers that they would not have any problem with dumping the manure over the fence. Doug Jacobs had gone to the website to look for the time the meeting started. He

noted that there was a comprehensive plan heading. He was wondering when all of the information for the Comprehensive Plan Commission will appear on the website. Kathy Olson stated that she is working with Elaine Werlin to bring the website up-to-date. Terry Rouleau was wondering when the survey will be going. He also was wonder if there could be a question on the survey that would state do you want the comprehensive plan or not. The Comprehensive Plan was approved by the town board.

8. **Review and Finalize Resident Survey:** The first point in the survey was how much do you know about some of these issues. Do you know what a comprehensive plan really is? It was also talked about how would people like to learn more about these issues including a public forum? Also talking about village powers. Another point Ricky Strauch will be the town constable till a replacement can be found. There is serious concerns about big dairy and hog operations coming in because we are un-zoned at this time. Also the possibility of sand mines coming in as well. Ricky Strauch mentioned that the Town of Clear Creek is currently dealing with the wind turbines. Town of Clear Creek currently has a moratorium in place for one year to do more research. The survey would be going out to residents. The residents must be 18 years or older to fill out the survey. They would have to be property owners, would have to have 51% ownership in the land. Ricky Strauch stated that he feels that most people don't understand how little power the town board really has on certain issues. He feels that there needs to be a better understanding about what can and can't be done. There is a lot of mis-information that is many times being passed around. Education is the key on all of the issues. We began working on the survey by working off of a general template. Then the subcommittee meet to try to localize the survey. A revised survey dated January 2, 2020 was handed out to the commission and members of the audience present at the meeting. Changes to the survey where explained. One survey will be sent to each household. This is an effort to prevent duplication. Anyone who owns land, if you are a resident, if you rent and are here 51% of the time. If there is more than one family in a household each one of the families would be able to fill out a survey but there will be only one survey sent to a property so it will be the responsibility of the families on the property to make or get extra copies of the survey or do it on line. Surveys will be **mailed out on February 14, 2020**. They must be return **by February 21, 2020**. At the bottom of each page of the survey the wording "Please attach additional pages for written comments as needed." This would then give people who are completing the survey and opportunity to add other comments that may not have addressed in the survey. Additions on **page 5, question 10** added the wording Town Roadway Maintenance, Health Care Coverage, Pollution Control/Environmental and Ambulance & Medical Services were added to the list. Additions on **Page 6, questions 11 & 12** - Tourism Areas was added. **On page 7, question 14** added was up to 20- 40 acres for one residence for county zoning to protect farming with some explanation. Also added Not Sure, but I'd like to learn more. **Page 8, question 15** added Town of Bridge Creek Comprehensive Plan, Continuing Education Efforts, Control of Nitrates in well water, Future town zoning ordinances, Control nitrates in well water. **Page 9, Question 16** added Buggy Dumping Station. **Question 17** language was added Education/outreach to improve traffic safety and Management of Animal waste on or near roads. **Page 18, question 18** added The town of Bridge Creek should have Village Powers which allow for such things as shared services (i.e. recycling center, fire department, etc.) and the Town Board should pursue agreements with neighboring governments to clearly define extraterritorial area jurisdiction. **Page 11, Question 19** added was

All existing rules at the Town, County, State and Federal levels being adequately enforced. Page 12, question 20 was added after the survey committee meeting. Question 21 added was Should be consistent with rural character & protect natural resources. Question 22 added was Waste Disposal Drop-off Locations and Dump Stations (i.e. offsite recycling, horse manure, Ag plastic, etc.) There will be a second survey sent out at a later date.

9. **Review and Discuss the Issues and Opportunities Element:** Tom Peterson and Chuck Forseth had started gathering information with the strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities exercise that was conducted at the December 17, 2019 Planning Commission meeting. Tom Peterson and Chuck Forseth have reviewed other Comprehensive plans in some other townships and Eau Claire County. They have come to the conclusion that the demographics information such as housing units, population trends, income, etc. should be under a separate section under a **chapter called Existing Conditions**. More information is still being gathered. They feel that this should not be combined with issues and opportunities. Tom Peterson and Chuck Forseth recommendation to the Commission is that in the Town of Bridge Creek Comprehensive Plan there should be existing conditions chapter were all of this information could be put into for people to look at or read. What they would like to do is to identify the issues and opportunities that this Commission and the public have addressed. Issues and opportunities is continually looked at and updated. As the other nine elements are reviewed there may be additional issues and opportunities that will be looked at and listed. The Issues and Opportunities that have already been identified are as follows:

Issues

Non Metal Mines
 Large Industrial Farms
 Protection of Natural Resources
 Land Use Conflicts
 Lack of High Speed Internet
 Low Public School Enrollment
 High Cost of Maintaining town Roads
 Threat of Horse & Buggy Traffic &
 Motor Vehicle Traffic
 Bridge Creek is the 3rd Fastest Growing
 Township
 Transportation Infra- Structure
 Population Density
 Farms & Forest Lands
 Zoning and Possible Impacts
 Maintain Rural Lifestyles
 Respect for Neighbors
 Identify Future Building Sites
 Sand & Sawdust Pollution
 Light & Noise Pollution
 Air Quality
 Train or Bus Stop between Augusta
 & Eau Claire

Opportunities

Lake Eau Claire, Eau Claire River
 Coon Fork & Eau Claire County Parks
 Recreation including AtV &
 Snowmobile trails, Hunting, Fishing,
 Camping, Biking
 Scenic Areas
 Dells Mill
 Close to Eau Claire & the Interstate
 Affordable Housing
 Excellent Public School Facilities
 Wildlands Science Research School
 Excellent Libraries with Easy Access
 County Forests
 Strong Work Ethic
 Tourism such as Amish Bus Tours
 Business & Commercial Opportunities
 large & small

This again is not a onetime look at these Issues and Opportunities. This will be on going through out the process as we go through the other elements. Williams Engineering will be adding a summary of the Issues and Opportunities that have been identified in the cover letter for the survey.

10. **Review & Discuss the Housing Element:** Some of the issues that stand out are the need for retirement and assisted living housing, affordable apartment housing, condo's, size of households are decreasing, water & septic issues, were to build. This element will be further discussed at the February meeting.
11. **Status Reports from Element Leads:** It is important to stay on schedule on the elements as much as possible.
12. **Report from the Joint Extraterritorial Committee:** Carol Peuse will report back in February on the status of this committee.
13. **Opportunity for Public Input:** None
14. **Review, Direct & Delegate Tasks Generated from Meeting:** Fred Poss will contact Gordie O'Brien to have his element on Transportation ready for the February meeting. The next Meeting will be held on February 11, 2019. (Meeting was later rescheduled to February 25, 2020)
15. **Schedule Next Meeting & Review Agenda Items:** Meetings will be scheduled for the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the Commission meetings.
16. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Carol Peuse

Secretary

Town of Bridge Creek

Issues and Opportunities

1

Issues

- Non metallic mines
- Large industrial farms
- Protection of Natural Resources
 - Surface water
 - Groundwater
 - Wetlands
 - Wildlife habitat
 - Agricultural land
 - Environmentally Sensitive areas
- Maintaining rural life style
- Land use conflicts
- Lack of high speed internet
- Low school enrollment
- High cost of maintaining town roads

Light pollution

Noise pollution

Respect for neighbors

Opportunities

- Lake Eau Claire
- Eau Claire River
- Coon Fork County Park
- Lake Eau County Park
- County Forest
- State Natural Areas
- Recreation
 - Snowmobile trails
 - ATV Trails
 - Hunting/Fishing
 - Boating
 - Camping
 - Biking
- Scenic area
- Dells Mill
- Proximity to Eau Claire
- Affordable housing
- Excellent school facilities
 - Option of Wildlands Science Research School
- Excellent library with easy access
 - Strong work force ethic
 - Bus Tours of Amish life
 - Tourism
 - Commercial opportunities
 - Small + Large Business
 - Bus + Train Stop

TOWN OF BRIDGE CREEK

Bridge Creek Comprehensive Planning Commission Meeting

February 25, 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, Gordie O'Brien, Fred Poss, Carol Peuse, Harvey Kurtz, Steve Erdman. Absent Tom Peterson. Alternates in attendance: Tom Crowe, Chuck Forseth & Christine Yellowthunder.
3. The **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.
4. **Approval of the agenda and proper posting:** Motion by Gordie O'Brien to approve the agenda and proper posting, seconded by Ricky Strauch. All yes, motion carried. The wording on the Agenda on posting locations will be changed on future agenda to say Augusta City Hall instead of Augusta City Hall/Police Dept.
5. Motion by Steve Erdman seconded by Gordie O'Brien to **approve the minutes** for November 5, 2019, December 17, 2019 and January 14, 2020 and to correct the 9. (a.) wording from incite to insight in the November 5, 2019 meeting minutes. All Yes, motion carried.
6. **Opportunity for Public Input:** John Volbrecht voiced his concerns with the noise, air & ground pollution from sawmills. The sawmill is about a 1 /2 to 1 miles away from the Volbrecht residence. When they are in their house with the television on it sounds like a plane is going over their house. The Volbrechts have gone over to talk to them on various occasions and they said that they would try to do something about it, but nothing ever gets done. The sawmill is powered by a very large diesel engine. The engine is located outside and is not enclosed. Mr. Volbrecht stated that it is very very loud. Mr. Volbrecht further stated that in the winter months with the snow on the ground it is very easy to see how far the sawdust travels. Justin & Linse Niznik who live on County Road M are also concerned about the sawdust that is blowing into their yard from the neighboring sawmill. Their three children cannot play outside without breathing in sawdust. Linse Niznik stated that the sawdust is on their shoes on the deck of their house and the swing set. The Niznik family talked to a realtor in Osseo and they were told that their house would be valued at about \$17,000 less because of the situation with the sawmills. They are very concerns about the health issues with their family. The situations that they are dealing with have been going on for 8 years. Terry O'Donahue explained the different types of pollution. Point pollution is when you know that a factory or business is the direct cause of the pollution. Non point pollution is when pollution comes from a bordering area. An example of this would be agri-business. Trout streams in this area are being polluted by manure, pesticides, herbicides and sawdust. This is something that is real. Mr. O'Donahue wanted to go on record that it is very important to protect our streams and ground water. Carol Peuse, as secretary for the Commission will be maintaining a 3 ring binder that will be the official record of the Comprehensive Planning Commission which will include agendas, minutes, hand outs and any other information that pertains to the commission. Every effort will be made to get the minutes and agenda out to the Commission members and alternates within 3 to 5 days following the meeting. This would then be emailed or mailed to the membership, alternates and the website. The **policy for attendance** at all Commission meetings was discussed. It was decided that all members of the Commission and alternates will be required to attend all Comprehensive Planning Commission meetings because of the importance of keeping up with all of the

information. If someone cannot attend a meeting they must get in contact with Chairman Fred Poss and **it must be something of a very serious nature to be excused**. No official action has been taken for Harvey Schrock to be an alternate. It needs to be verified if he would still be interested. Chairman Fred Poss asked Christine Yellowthunder to be an alternate on the Commission which she accepted. Each member and alternate on the Commission will receive \$25.00 per meeting plus mileage. They will need to turn in W-4 tax withholding information form to Kathy Olson.

7. **Discuss Resident Survey Return by Date Extension & Processing of Surveys:** A request was made by the Amish community to extend the due date for sending in the surveys. It has been extended to March 2, 2020. Chairman Poss clarified that the survey may be filled out by each resident of the household that is 18 years and older. Extra copies are available on the Bridge Creek website or individuals can make additional photo copies. A motion was made by Gordie O'Brien to choose William Engineering Services as the independent third party to collect the surveys and tabulate the data from the surveys seconded by Steve Erdman. All yes, motion carried. Discussion was held on a seconded survey down the road.
8. **Review & Discuss (continue) the Housing Element:** Carol Peuse began by reading the requirements for the Housing Element as provided under Wis Stats. Sec. 66.1001 (2) (b) as a beginning guide line of what needs to be included in this element. Some of the things that stand out are the need for retirement and assisted living housing, affordable apartment condo's size of households are decreasing with some but increasing with Amish populations. The census from 2010 stated that there was 1900 people in the township. 22.4 % of the population of the township was below poverty level. The majority of the population was white. There was also information shared on the values of the housing market and some differences in values from the northern and southern parts of the township. The majority of houses in the township were built in 1939 or earlier. The average income in the township was also discussed with the differences between to northern and southern part of the township. One of the other things that needs to be taken into account is if the individual is working outside the township or is self-employed. Examples of the travel times to work was discussed. Examples of rent paid was also given. On the availability of land to build a home it was stated by a realtor that there is not much land available to build homes and the concern with this issue. Christine Yellowthunder will be also helping to work on the presentation of the Housing Element. Chairman Poss also share information that he was able to find to help with the research with this element. The final report on this element will be given at the March meeting.
9. **Review & Discuss the Transportation Element:** Gordie O'Brien gave a detailed presented the Transportation Element as provided in Wis. Stats. Section 66.1001 (2) (c). Mr. O'Brien handed out his Transportation Element report to the membership. Discussed in this presentation was the following sections; Transportation, Existing Transportation Facilities, Commuting Patterns, Traffic Counts, Access Management & Safety, Under Additional Modes of Transportation were Transit Service, Transportation Facilities for the Disabled, Pedestrian & Bicycle Transportation, Railroad Service, Aviation Service, Trucking, Water Transportation. Under Maintenance & Improvements were Pavement Surface Evaluation & Rating, State & Regional Transportation Plans, Mr. O'Brien's report in it entirety is included as an attachment to these minutes. Chairman Poss thanked Mr. O'Brien for putting together and excellent report.

10. **Status Reports from Element Leads:** Chairman Poss review the timelines for the Nine Elements and the Commission members and alternates that are assigned to each Element. Gordie O'Brien will be assisting Carol Peuse on the Economic Development Element.
11. **Report from the Joint Extraterritorial Committee:** A meeting has been scheduled with the City of Augusta for February 27, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at the Augusta City Hall. Representing Bridge Creek will be Chuck Foreseth, Tom Crowe and Carol Peuse. An update will be given at the March meeting on the progress of the committee.
12. **Opportunity for Public Input:** None
13. **Review, Direct & Delegate Tasks Generated from Meeting:** A meeting may be needed to go over some of the contractual conditions with the William Engineering Services to clarify some issues of concern.
14. **Schedule Next Meeting & Review Agenda Items:** Comprehensive Plan Commission meetings will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will be held on March 17, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.
15. **Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:10. P.m.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Carol Peuse
Secretary

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.

TOWN OF BRIDGE CREEK

Bridge Creek Comprehensive Planning Commission

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 7, 2020

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Chairman Fred Poss
2. **Roll call** of Commission members and alternates: Present Ricky Strauch, Fred Poss, Carol Peuse, Harvey Kurtz Steve Erdman. Absent Gordie O'Brien. Alternates in attendance: Christine Yellowthuner & Tom Crowe.
3. The **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.
4. Motion by Ricky Strauch seconded by Steve Erdman to approve the **Agenda and Proper Posting**. All yes, motion carried.
5. Motion by Ricky Strauch seconded by Chuck Forseth to approve the **June 3, 2020 meeting** minutes as presented. All yes motion carried.
6. Chairman Poss announced that Gordie O'Brien has accepted the **Vice-Chairman Position** on the Commission.
7. **Opportunity for Public Input:** None
8. Chairman Poss review the discussion and motion on the Standard Element Report Format that was adopted at the June 3, 2020 Commission meeting which will be the pattern for each of the elements after the Eau Claire County Format.
9. Ron Williams of Williams Engineering Services handed out a summary of the answers to the questions from the Survey # 1. The comments that were made on this survey are not included but will provided in a separate document as there were a lot of comments. Mr. Williams provided an example of some different formats graphs. The line graph format will be used instead of pie charts after discussion.
10. **Status Reports on any Element Leads in future meetings:** Discussion was held on who to contact for the intergovernmental element. Suggestions were made on various contacts.
11. **Status Report from Ricky Strauch on Agricultural Element and from Fred Poss on Natural Resources:** **Agricultural Element** was presented by Ricky & Wendy Strauch. Results from the respondents to the 2007 Eau Claire County Survey stated that over 90% agreed or strongly agreed that good farmland should be preserved for agricultural use. 80% felt that more needs to be done to preserve farmland in Eau Claire County. Over 75% disagreed that farming is an industry in decline and therefore farmland should be considered for other uses. Respondents also felt that it was very important for good air quality, forest/woodlands and surface water. There was not a lot of information for the Township of Bridge Creek because the township was not previously included in a comprehensive plan. A questions that could be added to the second survey. What kind of farming do you do? Dairy, crops, nursery greenhouse, hog, vegetable, tree farming. Another question would be: Is the farm income the soul income or are there other forms of income to supplement farm? Another question would is your farm involved in a Nutrient Management Practices? **Natural Resources Element** was presented by Fred Poss. Mr.

Poss reviewed many plans in surrounding areas. His findings are as follows: Natural Resources are described as matters such as minerals, forest, water etc. There were four rural concerns - overflow and leaving an abandoned manure storage facilities, over application of fertilizers and pesticides, stacking manure too close to water resources and unrestricted access by livestock to stream and eroding stream banks. Urban concerns are waste materials dumped into storm drains, over application of fertilizers and pesticides on parks and golf courses and loss of wetlands. There are seven criteria that were used in order to identify the types or characteristics of places critical to meeting Wisconsin conservation and outdoor recreation needs. The Town of Bridge Creek does not have the CLG status at this point. The Town of Bridge lies completely within the lower Eau Claire County water shed. There are 21 miles of Class 1 trout streams in the Township of Bridge Creek. In 2011 the Eau Claire Lake Association joined with a new government called the Lake District. The goals of the Lake District are to aerate the lake, install and maintain sand traps and install fish habitat. Sand trap at Troubled Waters is very important to maintain. There have been 328 fish structures and 200 tree falls added to the lake. Living water grows fish. Troubled Waters Bridge is in need of boat landing for boat excess. Metallic and non-Metallic mineral resources are at a standstill at this time. Question was to if the land will be reclaimed. The Commission thanked the Ricky & Wendy Strauch and Fred Poss for a great job on their respective presentations.

- 12. Discussion on Extra Territorial Meeting with the City of Augusta:** An update was presented by Tom Crowe and there will be further information at the next Commission meeting on August 4, 2020.
- 13. Opportunity for Second Public Input:** Ammon Wagler who lives on Dolotta Road brought the Commission up to date on the problem with the sawdust that was affecting Linse Niznik residence. Mr. Wagler had turned the pipe so that the sawdust was not blowing on the Niznik residence. That solved the problem and all is well.
- 14. Review, Direct and Delegate tasks for Next Meeting:** Gordie O'Brien and Carol Peuse will present the Economic Development Element at the August 4, 2020 meeting. Gordie O'Brien will be working with Fred Poss on the Implementation Element. Chuck Forseth will be working with Steve Erdman on the Land Use Element.
- 15. Schedule next meeting and Review Agenda Items:** The next commission meeting will be held on August 4, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the Bridge Creek Town Hall.
- 16. Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.**

TOWN OF BRIDGE CREEK

Bridge Creek Comprehensive Planning Commission

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 4, 2020

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Chairman Fred Poss
2. **Roll call** of Commission members and alternates: Present Ricky Strauch, Fred Poss, Carol Peuse, Gordie O'Brien, Steve Erdman and Chuck Forseth. Absent Harvey Kurtz. Alternates in attendance: Christine Yellowthunder & Tom Crowe.
3. The **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.
4. **Agenda and Proper Posting.** Voice vote. All yes, motion carried.
5. Motion by Ricky Strauch seconded by Chuck Forseth to approve the **July 7, 2020 meeting** minutes as corrected. All yes motion carried. A corrected copy of the minutes was sent out to all commission members and alternates.
6. **Review/ Announcements from the previous meeting:**
 - a. Gordie O'Brien and Carol Peuse presentation on **Economic Development Element.** Gordie O'Brien reviewed the Eau Claire County and surrounding area Comprehensive plans. Based on the plans reviewed he had obtained comparable information relating to the Town of Bridge Creek. Economic Development discusses the employment projections, labor market, analysis of business & industry parks, environmentally contaminated sites and the strengths & weaknesses. Strengths: Proactive business environment, diverse & growing regional economy, strong K-12 education systems, proximity to major transportation routes and favorable quality of life. Weaknesses: Lack of skilled workers, aging population, inadequate housing availability, lack of talent recruitment resources & low wages and earnings. Attached also to the report are supporting graphs for this report.
 - b. Ricky & Wendy Strauch presented the final portion of the **Agriculture Element.** There has been a trend in the decrease of family dairy farms and increases in hobby, beef, sheep, and goat and greenhouse agriculture within the Town of Bridge Creek. There is a need to maintain existing agricultural land and preserve it to the greatest extent possible. The goals, objectives and policies of the various areas of the Agricultural Element were discussed The "Right to Farm" law, best management practices and generally accepted agricultural & management practices (GAAMPS) was also discussed. Chairman Poss thanked the presenters for a great job on their respective presentations on each element.
7. **Opportunity for Public Input:** None
8. **Further discussion and comments from Williams Engineering Consulting:** Tabled till the September 1, 2020 Commission meeting.
9. **Status reports on Elements' work:** Chuck Forseth will be replacing Tom Peterson and working with Steve Erdman on the Land Use Element. Gordie O'Brein will be replacing Tom Peterson and working with Fred Poss on the Implementation Element.
10. **Review and Delegate Tasks for Next Meeting:** The next Commission meeting will be held on September 1, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.
11. **Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

Approved
10-6-2020

Bridge Creek Comprehensive Planning Commission

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 1, 2020

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Chairman Fred Poss
2. **Roll call** of Commission members and alternates: Present Ricky Strauch, Fred Poss, Carol Peuse, Gordie O'Brien, Steve Erdman and Chuck Forseth & Harvey Kurtz. Alternates in attendance: Christine Yellowthunder & Tom Crowe.
3. The **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.
4. **Agenda and Proper Posting:** Motion by Gordie O'Brien, seconded by Steve Erdman to approve the agenda and proper posting as presented. Voice vote. All yes, motion carried.
5. Motion by Steve Erdman seconded by Gordie O'Brien to approve the **August 4, 2020 meeting** minutes. Voice vote. All yes motion carried.
6. **Review/Announcements from previous meeting:** Chairman Poss Thanked Chuck Forseth for getting the information on the historical site for the Dell's Mill.
7. **Opportunity for Public Input:** John & Jan Lund had concerns about rezoning the Town of Bridge Creek. Chairman Fred Poss clarified the purpose of the long term plan that the Planning Commission is addressing with the Comprehensive plan and the process for the completion of this plan. John & Jan Lund encouraged the young people of the township to get involved.
8. **Further discussion and comments from Williams Engineering Consulting on Survey #1 and how to share results & highlights from the survey:** Ron Williams handed out the Town of Bridge Creek compiled Survey Results 2020 from the 601 surveys that were returned. Mr. Williams stated that on **Question 18 – Intergovernmental Cooperation – The Town of Bridge Creek should have Village Powers which allow for such things as shared services (i.e. recycling center, fire department, sexual predator ID, Etc.)** that this committee and the Town of Bridge should look closely at the results of this question. On question 18 there were 117 identical statements of the 302 who strongly disagreed with the village powers portion of Question 18. The idea was to get individual statements on residents feeling not a bulk answer to sway the answers on the survey. Discussion was held on how to handle this kind of information for the good of the community. There may need to be a further breakdown on some questions to get a clearer picture of the problem. Also having questions on the next survey as to what the solution to that problem may be. Mr. Williams further stated that on the rest of the questions that there were really good opinions on what the Township believes and what is important or not important. It is very important to get correct information out to the residences of the Township of Bridge Creek through newspaper articles, listening sessions, pamphlets etc. so that residences can make good and informed decisions. Fred Poss, Gordie O'Brien, Ron Williams and Chuck Forseth will be setting up an interview with the Augusta Area Times to discuss the progress that the Planning Commission has been making to this point. Ricky Strauch will be talking to the Township attorney for more clarification on Village Powers and what this means.
9. **Intergovernmental Cooperation Element presentation:** Chuck Forseth discussed the different parts of this element. They are as follows: Vision, Goals, Objectives and Policies, Intergovernmental Cooperation Actions, Potential Issues or Opportunities Raised during the planning process and

Implementation. Examples of Existing Intergovernmental Cooperation. Tom Crowe stated that there were over 7,000 book check out by Bridge Creek residents from the Augusta Public Library. Chairman Poss thanked Chuck Forseth and Tom Crowe for a great job on their presentation.

- 10. Status Reports on Elements' work:** At the October 6, 2020 Steve Erdman and Chuck Forseth will present the Land Use Element. At the November 2020 meeting Fred Poss & Gordie O'Brien will be presenting the Implementation Element. Discussion will be held on what the Commissions next steps should be in regards to a public presentation or listening session. In December 2020 the commission will be looking at doing a revised second survey.
- 11. Status Report on Extraterritorial Committee meeting:** The meeting was held on August 26, 2020 at the Augusta City Hall. Attorney John Wilcox handed out a draft Interim Zoning Ordinance for the committee's consideration. A survey letter will be sent with a copy of the draft ordinances and conditional uses requesting input and instructing from the property owners in the Extraterritorial Zone to send responses to the Augusta City Clerk by the September 30, 2020 committee meeting.
- 12. Opportunity for further Public Input:** None
- 13. Review & Delegate Tasks for Next Meeting:** Steve Erdman & Chuck Forseth were given some input on things to be included in the Land Use Element. Next meeting will be held on **October 6, 2020** at **6:30 p.m.**
- 14. Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

TOWN OF BRIDGE CREEK

Bridge Creek Comprehensive Planning Commission

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 6, 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, Gordie O'Brien, Steve Erdman and Chuck Forseth & Harvey Kurtz. Alternates in attendance: Christine Yellowthunder & Tom Crowe. Also present Ron Williams of Williams Engineering.
3. The **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.
4. **Agenda and Proper Posting:** Motion by Gordie O'Brien, seconded by Steve Erdman to approve the agenda and proper posting as presented. Voice vote. All yes, motion carried.
5. Motion by Steve Erdman seconded by Chuck Forseth to approve the **September 1, 2020 meeting** minutes. Voice vote. All yes motion carried.
6. **Review/Announcements from previous meeting:** Chairman Poss stated the Augusta Area Times was unable to do the interview at 6:00 p.m. as originally planned. Sean Scallon, editor for the Augusta Area Times will be here about 6:30 p.m.
7. **Opportunity for Public Input:** None
8. **Comments & Update from Williams Engineering:** Ron Williams and Fred Poss met and discussed the importance of making a list of the things that the committee felt were important for the Comprehensive Plan. We would then need a plan of action on how to make these lists move forward with all of the information that has been gathered. It was also discussed on what should be included in the next survey such as what has been happening or should be happening and what the public thinks of this list. Chairman Poss asked that each of the committee members look at the elements that they have been working on and to make a items list for each of the elements that they reported on for the next meeting. An Implementing of Plan of Action form was handed out to all members present to be used for the uniform gathering of information
9. **Intergovernmental Cooperation Element presentation:** Chuck Forseth will be sending an updated and revised copy of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Element.
10. **Update on work on Elements from work groups:** Chairman Poss asked if any members of the Committee are having any problems or would like to share further information that they may have on their respective nine elements. There was none at this time.
11. **Status Report on Extraterritorial Committee meeting:** The meeting was held on September 30, 2020 at the Augusta City Hall. Discussion was held on the proposed Extraterritorial Zoning Ordinance. A motion was made and seconded to move the ordinance onto the Augusta City Council for approval. After the meeting it was noted that there needs to be a hearing before moving the ordinance onto the Augusta City Council. The hearing and hearing date are in process of being set up at this time.
12. **Land Use Element Report:** Chuck Forseth presented a working draft for the Land Use Element. Discussion was held on Goals, Objectives & Policies as to what should be added, amended or eliminated. Discussion was held in respect to the sand mines and the impact on this township

and if this should be address and included in this element. Chairman Poss had done extensive work in respect to the mines and the problems surrounding them in the past. This document could be imported and added to this element under 2.7.2 Goals, Objectives & Polices. It was the feeling of the membership that this document should be included in this section. Gordie O'Brien stated that there are also now Town of Bridge Creek Ordinances and Eau Claire County Ordinances and that they should also be included in this section in respect to the non-metallic mining. It was felt that there needs to be a housing goal in this land use element even though it has been included in the Housing Element. Discussion was also held on identifying on a map where there should be residential, agricultural, industrial land. If you have any suggestions or more input please forward your ideas to Chuck Forseth and Steve Erdman. A thank you was given to Chuck Forseth and Steve Erdman for all of the hours that they have put in to this element.

- 13. Discussion of appropriate next steps: First draft? Public Listening Session? 2nd Survey?:** Chairman Poss discussed the first draft of the comprehensive plan, and upcoming listening session and preparations for a 2nd survey.
- 14. Work Session guided by Ronnie Williams:** Chairman Poss distributed five post-it-notes to every one present for input for five questions. **Question 1 – Generate a plan of action for each element.** Suggestions – Setting time in the future for review of plan. Addressing on going issues in our community and plan to fix them. Develop rough draft of plan to see as a whole. Who compiles all of this information and puts it together in final form. Compile all elements and reduce unnecessary repetitions – reduce for good flow – editing by committee. **Question 2 – Prioritize Action Plan Items.** Suggestions – Shorten element reports to what is needed. Avoid repeating needs. What is the Committee's main objectives? Part of the paper work noted that only a small part of Bridge Creek was "qualify" water. The same could be said of Hay Creek and Diamond Valley Creeks. Much of this is due to unrestricted access by livestock especially horses, pigs and cattle. What can be done within the laws to change this as they did on the Tomorrow River, Waupaca County many years ago? **Question 3 – Create Training/Education Sessions & Materials for Public:** Suggestions - Who takes all information compile and enforces action in the end? Plan structure for public meetings to include vehicles for public input. Getting information out to the public. Making the information very understandable. Transparency. Promote Public sessions to educate what is at stake. How do we inform public of our plan? How do we incorporate the survey into the plan? **Question 4 – Involve Town Legal Counsel in direction work of the Commission** – Suggestions - Try to make that we don't get communists in the township. **Question 5 – Solicit feedback from town board on Commission work:** Suggestions – When will this plan be presented to the town board? In time will we as a Commission meet with the town board? Chairman Poss reviewed the different comments that were made in regards to the five questions.
- 15. Opportunity for further Public Input:** None
- 16. Review & Delegate Tasks for Next Meeting:** At the November 2020 meeting the Implementation Element will be discussed. The Implementation report will be presented by Gordie O'Brien, Terry O'Donahue, Chuck Forseth and Fred Poss. The next meeting will be held on **November 17, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.**
- 17. Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Approved
1-19-2021

TOWN OF BRIDGE CREEK

S9515 State Road 27

Augusta, WI 54722

Meeting Minutes

Bridge Creek Comprehensive Planning Commission

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

6:30 PM

Bridge Creek Town Hall, S9515 State Road 27, Augusta, WI

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM.

Roll Call of Commission members & Alternates: Present – Fred Poss, Carol Peuse, Ricky Strauch, Gordie O'Brien, Steve Erdman, Harvey Kurtz, Chuck Forseth and Christine Yellowthunder. Also in attendance on Zoom was Kathy Gennings, Celia Bethke & Mike Bethke.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda & Proper Posting was done.

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Gordie O'Brien seconded by Steve Erdman to approve the minutes for October 6, 2020 as presented. All yes, motion carried. Motion by Gordie O'Brien seconded by Chuck Forseth to approve the November 17, 2020 meeting minutes as presented. All yes, motion carried.

Review/ Announcements from previous meeting: Chairman Fred Poss showed the second draft of the Commission plan and wanted to thank Ron Williams of William Engineering for his work on this draft. Chairman Poss wanted to remind people that they can attend the meetings in person or on line. He further stated that about \$34,000 of the \$50,000 that was available through the grant has been used leaving about \$16,000 left to complete the plan. After discussions with Chuck Forseth Ron Williams will be providing more updated information regarding land use. Chairman Poss also discussed the upcoming survey and requested that Commission Members email Chairman Poss the Implementing a Plan of Action form.

Opportunity for Public Input: None

Updates on work on Elements from Work Groups: The 2.7 Land Use Element draft. Items in red are the new items. If you have any ideas, suggestion, corrections, etc. please get this information back to Chuck Forseth.

Land Use Element Report: Chuck Forseth and Steve Erdman discussed the farmland part of this Element. One of the goals would be to protect and preserve farmland and to discourage the fragmentation of farmland and forest lands as much as possible.

Implementation Elements: Chairman Poss discussed the importance of filling out the Implementing a Plan of Action form to try to summarize the different Elements.

Status Report on Extraterritorial Committee Meeting: On October 27, 2020 a hearing was held at 6:30p.m. There was additional information from concerned citizens regarding the Zoning Ordinance. The Zone Ordinance was then approved and was moved forward to the Augusta City Council and at their regular meeting was adopted.

Comments & updates from William Engineering: Ron Williams stated that they have started assembling the draft plan. They have been taking all of the elements and starting to compile them. They are trying to make it look like it was all done by one author by using the same format. Ron will be sending out a link so that the committee members will be able to review the draft. The zoom meeting will be set up a little different next time. Kathy Olson and Carol Peuse will be the moderators for the meeting and it will be hosted at the Bridge Creek Town Hall.

Discussion of appropriate next steps: Chairman Fred Poss has received a plan of action from Christene Yellowthunder, Chuck Forseth and Gordie O'Brien. Steve Erdman is still working the Land Use Element. He will be giving some future recommendations, Ricky Strauch is still working on this Farm Element. Chairman Poss felt that it would be good to have a summary of action points of all the elements and that they be listed separately. After discussion it was decided that a summary of actions was a good idea to proceed with.

Working Session guided by Ron Williams: This was already covered of in other parts of this meeting.

Schedule next meeting & set commission member tasks: The next meeting will be held on January 19, 2021 at 6:30 PM as a zoom meeting.

Opportunity for further Public Input: None

Mileage & Withholding Reports for Commission Members: Please turn in mileage and withholding to Kathy Olson as soon as possible.

Review & Delegate Tasks for Next Meeting: The Commission will be continuing on with the plan as already presented earlier in the meeting.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM