

TOWN OF BRIDGE CREEK
S9515 State Road 27
Augusta, WI 54722
Meeting Minutes

Approved
2-23-21

Bridge Creek Comprehensive Planning Commission

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

6:30 PM

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

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Roll Call of Commission members & Alternates: Present – Fred Poss, Carol Peuse, Ricky Strauch, Gordie O’Brien, Steve Erdman, Chuck Forseth and Christine Yellowthunder. Also present: Kathy Olson & Ron Williams, Absent: Harvey Kurz

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda & Proper Posting: Motion by Gordie O’Brien seconded by Steve Erdman to approve agenda and proper posting. All yes motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Gordie O’Brien seconded by Steve Erdman to approve the minutes for December 15, 2020 meeting minutes as presented. All yes, motion carried.

Review announcements from previous meeting: Chairman Fred Poss stated that Terry O’Donahue is editing the final Comprehensive Plan draft. Some members of the Commission have submitted corrections and revisions. Fred Poss will be working with Ron Williams of William Engineering. When all corrections and edits are done it should make it easier and more cost effective to stay within the remaining balance left on the grant monies.

Opportunity for Public Input: None

Updates on Work on Elements from work groups: Gordie O’Brien asked that there be more Lake Eau Claire information included. Fred Poss will be working on this. Christine Yellowthunder expressed concerns that there is very little addressing the Amish Community and their impact on the transportation, roads, housing, farming and how their population effects this township. She further stated that we have no idea as to when the 2020 census reports will become available and how these statistics will affect our Comprehensive Plan. Christine further stated that we need to go to the Amish Community to get the information on their population, culture and way of life. All of these factors need to be taken into consideration for future funding for this township. Gordie O’Brien suggested that we formulate all of the questions and data that we would like to have included in the plan to represent the Amish community. These questions and data requests would then be given to Harvey Kurtz who is a representative on this commission for the Amish community. Chairman Fred Poss asked that all of the commission members send their questions or items that need to be addressed to him by January 30th. Chairman Poss would then take these questions and items to Harvey Kurtz. Chairman Poss stated that the plan document can be updated quickly if new or updated information needs to be added right up to the completion of the plan. Another option could be adding an addendum to the document at a later date.

Comments & Updates from Williams Engineering: No Comments at his time.

Discussion of appropriate next steps: Chairman Fred Poss is looking at a target date of mid to late summer for completion of the Comprehensive Plan. Bridge Creek Township Clerk, Kathy Olson stated that completion date for the grant was until May 2021. Kathy Olson will be looking into the possibility of getting the due date for completion of the plan extended because of the Covid 19 Virus.

Schedule next Meeting, set Commission members tasks: Chairman Fred Poss will be meeting with Ron Williams in the next month to polish up on the draft was we move forward. We may be looking at the different options for a second survey depending on the results that we get from the Amish on the questions and items that will be presented to them. In February we will need to schedule a presentation of the draft plan report for public and then for the town board. The next meeting of the commission will be held on February 16, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

TOWN OF BRIDGE CREEK

S9515 State Road 27

Augusta, WI 54722

Meeting Minutes

Approved
3-23-2021

Bridge Creek Comprehensive Planning Commission

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

6:30 PM

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

Meeting was called to order at 6:31 PM.

Roll Call of Commission members & Alternates: Present – Fred Poss., Carol Peuse, Gordie O'Brien, Steve Erdman and Chuck Forseth. Also present: Kathy Olson & Ron Williams, Absent: Harvey Kurz, Ricky Strauch, Christine Yellowthunder and Tom Crowe

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda & Proper Posting: Motion by Steve Erdman seconded by Gordie O'Brien to approve agenda and proper posting. All yes motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Gordie O'Brien seconded by Chuck Forseth to approve the minutes for January 19, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. All yes, motion carried.

Review Announcements from Previous: Chairman Fred Poss stated that there were five carry over items from the January 19, 2021 meeting: **1.** Discussion was previously held to use the Eau Claire County Comprehensive Plan format to stay parallel between the two plans. There was no formal motion made to adopt this format. Ron Williams stated that he favored the Eau Claire County format. He likes that the Visions, Rules Objections and Policies are then put more in the front which he felt made it easier to read for the audience. Motion was made by Steve Erdman seconded by Gordie O'Brien to use the Eau Claire County Format for the Bridge Creek Comprehensive Plan. All yes motion carried. **2.** Chairman Fred Poss wanted some guidance on how to handle the Amish Survey. One of the problems is when Harvey Kurtz who is the representative for the Amish community is absent from the commission meetings. He has missed at least five meetings. One solution that was suggested was to get one response from the Amish as a group on the proposed Amish survey. Chairman Poss will be getting in contact with Mr. Gingrich to see what can be done as far as the survey is concerned. Chairman Poss would like to have this done before the next commission meeting in March 2021. **3.** Chairman Poss stated that Ron Williams is still gathering information and to authorize Mr. Williams to take the just of the Implementation sections and to cut and paste from other comprehensive plans to add to our comprehensive plan. **4.** The grant deadline for the Bridge Creek Comprehensive Plan is about May 28, 2021. Kathy Olson stated if an extension of time was needed a signed amendment request would need to clearly state the reasons for the need for the extension. Chairman Poss discussed the census information that will be coming in at a further date. This information could then be added to the comprehensive plan later with an addendum. **5.** Terry O'Donahue has completed the editing and reviewed the Compressive plan and had no changes to make.

Opportunity for Public Input: None

Update on work on Elements from work groups: Implementation was addressed earlier in the meeting.

Comments & Updates from Williams Engineering: Ron Williams stated that another draft will be done by the end of the week. There have been maps added that committee members had asked for. Williams Engineering will be making a list of any items that may be missing and get that list out to the committee membership for review. After meeting with the Amish community on the survey they will also be trying to get the results combined into the plan.

Discussion of appropriate next steps: A meeting with Mr. Gingrich will be set up. Chairman Poss requested that when the next draft of the Comprehensive Plan is sent out to the commission membership please review the draft. A list of missing items in the plan and what can be found and what cannot will also be sent out.

Schedule next Meeting: The next Comprehensive plan meeting will be held on March 23, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

Adjourned: Meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

TOWN OF BRIDGE CREEK
S9515 State Road 27
Augusta, WI 54722
Meeting Minutes

Approved

4-27-2021

CP

Bridge Creek Comprehensive Planning Commission

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

6:30 PM

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

Meeting was called to order at 6:36 P.M.

Roll Call of Commission members & Alternates: Present – Fred Poss, Carol Peuse, Gordie O'Brien, Steve Erdman and Chuck Forseth, Ricky Strauch, Christine Yellowthunder, Harvey Kurtz. Also present: Kathy Olson & Ron Williams, Absent: Tom Crowe.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda & Proper Posting: Motion by Steve Erdman seconded by Gordie O'Brien to approve agenda and proper posting. All yes motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Motion made by Gordie O'Brien seconded by Ricky Strauch to approve the minutes for February 23, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. All yes, motion carried.

Review announcements from previous meeting: Chairman Fred Poss stated that he had composed and delivered a second Amish survey as directed by the Commission to the Gingrich farm with a self-addressed stamped return envelope which was to be returned by March 23, 2020. The survey has not to this date been returned. Commission member Harvey Kurtz will be try to find out what has happened with the survey. It was felt that if the information came in later that it could be included as an addendum to the Comprehensive Plan.

Opportunity for Public Input: None

Updates on revision to final draft of the Plan Report: Williams Engineering has agreed to finish writing the rest of the plan.

Comments & Updates from Williams Engineering for Town Board/public presentation: Ron Williams updated the Commission on the list of missing information for the final copy that he had sent out by email. He would hope that any missing information that members of the Commission would like to add to please complete this information in the next couple of weeks. Please put your corrections or additions in a different color when submitting them. Christine Yellowthunder stated that in the housing element that there were four goals and objections. She stated that she felt uncomfortable to be writing policies. She asked for a clarification on how policies come about in regards to the plan. Ron Williams clarified that this document is a non-binding document that is a starting place for the Township Board to begin to make policies or ordinances for the Township and that the Commission is making recommendations to the Township Board. Christine Yellowthunder stated her concern for the Amish housing map. Ron Williams recommended that the housing map for the Amish community be given to Harvey Kurtz and this

would then be updated with the number of the Amish housing in Bridge Creek. Commission member Harvey Kurtz stated that he would update this map.

Discussion of appropriate next steps: Chairman Fred Poss asked that any corrections or additions to the Comprehensive plan be submitted by April 7, 2021.

Grant timeline extension: Discussion was held on the various reasons that the Commission feels that we would need to apply for an extension of time to comply with the conditions of the Comprehensive Plan Grant. Motion was made by Gordie O'Brien and seconded by Ricky Strauch to apply for an extension of time that they would comfortable in granting. All yes motion carried. Harvey Kurtz stated that he apologized if we as the Amish have been part of the fault as to why the Commission has to be asking for an extension. He did not realize as he had not always been attended the meetings.

Schedule next meeting, set Commission members tasks: **1. Review/Revise current plan report draft. 2. Make suggestions as to format for public presentation.** The next meeting will be Tuesday April 27, 2021 at 6:30 P. M. May 20, 2021 would be the presentation of the final draft to the Bridge Creek Town Board. The Bridge Creek Town Board would receive the final Comprehensive plan two weeks ahead of the May 20th meeting for their review. One member of the commission will summarize the plan to the town board which would then be followed by questions.

Adjourn: 7:10 P.M.

SUMMARY MINUTES OF AMISH COOPERATION COMMITTEE – MEETING ONE

4/20/21

TIME: 2:00 PM

PLACE: OFFICE OF WES, RONNIE WILLIAMS

MEMBERS: LEVI BORNTREGGER, JONAS BORNTREGGER, RUDY GINGERICH, ELI GINGERICH, RONNIE WILLIAMS, FRED POSS

DISCUSSION POINTS:

1. Fred Poss acted as chairperson of the meeting because it was his idea to have a meeting between the Amish leadership and leaders of the Planning Commission. Poss explained he hoped to improve communication in order to accomplish two goals: 1. To gain more Amish information for the Planning Commission Survey, and 2. To see if there would be interest in establishing a regular, standing committee to work on solving problems between the English and Amish in the township of Bridge Creek.
2. The first response from the Amish leaders was a concern that the second survey made available to them was not anonymous. It identified them as a group. Both Ronnie Williams and Fred Poss responded by saying two things: 1. The survey was meant to be one only for the Amish in order to best include their ideas in township planning, and 2. No specific names of persons were ever used in the survey and never will be used to identify specific people.
3. The next response from Amish leaders was to explain their religious community often feel "singled out." Both Poss and Williams responded to this. First, they said that is exactly why the Amish should complete the second Planning Survey directed specifically to their issues. Second, they responded by saying that there is a difference between being "singled out" by others and intentionally isolating themselves by not completing the survey.
4. The third concern from the Amish leaders was uncertainty about the survey asking questions about Amish schools. Were we trying to take away their education and/or religion? Williams and Poss responded by saying the Planning Commission's only interest in Amish schools is due to the fact that their children walk on county roads every day to and from school, and we have a concern about traffic safety for those children. Would better traffic signs help protect the children as they walk to school? The answer seemed to be helpful in answering Amish concern. A thorough discussion of safety ideas followed.
5. The fourth concern that Amish leaders expressed was they worried our survey could pose a threat to their religious freedom. Poss and Williams explained that there was no interest in threatening anyone's religion. The second survey was designed to focus on protecting Amish individuality, not remove it. Further, America was created by people who sought religious freedom and that freedom still is a basic part of democracy. However, democracy only works if all people are willing to participate in its processes, not remove themselves from them.
6. The fifth item discussed was an explanation provided by the Amish leaders. They said the Amish remain concerned that the town board will force zoning onto the township. Because of

that concern, their community brought on an attorney who explained that if the township adopted a Three Person town board, the township could not force zoning onto the community. Poss explained that Amish fears about being forced into zoning are not based on facts. No town board alone can force a township into zoning. The majority of township members right now have little interest in bringing in zoning. And, finally, if zoning were to become a major issue again, there is actually a long legal process that must be followed. No one-time, sudden vote by a town board could establish zoning. The Amish seemed to be relieved to hear this.

7. The sixth item for discussion was the general topic of Farmland Preservation/Conservation. After a long discussion of various issues, the conversation focused on the problems of manure storage. Williams explained how he could work with the county and the state to design a "Standard Manure System" which could fit all Amish farms. This standard system could be very economical because there would be just the cost of a one-time system design, and the standard system would bring all Amish farms into compliance under manure regulations. There seemed to be positive support for this idea from the Amish leaders. Williams also expressed that the "one animal unit" rule from the state was a bad rule and needed to be changed.
8. The seventh item was a tentative acceptance of the Poss proposal for an Amish Cooperation Committee. Their leadership agreed to support this Amish Cooperation Committee if the town board would support it too. The idea would be for the Committee to meet on a regular basis. Along with the present members in attendance today, both parties could invite one other person who could speak to a specific issue—for example, Greg Leonard might be invited to provide information on manure storage. Further, Poss proposed that he seek support from the town board to hire Ronnie Williams as a consultant to the new committee. The consultant's job would be to prepare for each meeting by researching relevant topics, provide legal information regarding conservation laws, and to provide follow-up time to consult with Poss, the chairperson, to find more information for the next meeting. To begin with the meetings would occur four times a year. The consultant would be paid on a per hour basis of \$150 per hour. Four meetings with up to two hours preparation, up to two hours of meeting time and two hours follow-up would cost \$3,600 with another \$400 be set aside in case materials or travel costs occur. The total budget each year would be for no more than \$4,000. Poss agreed to take this proposed consultant position idea to the town board in May.
9. The last item was an invitation by the Amish leaders to have one or two town board members begin to visit Amish farms agreed upon with leaders from this committee in order to better develop communication and understanding.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Poss, Planning Commission Chairperson