

TOWN of MAY
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
October 27, 2023

The Board of Supervisors of the Town of May convened a special meeting on Friday, October 27th, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. Those present included: Board members Steve Magner and Don Rolf. Clerk/Treasurer Bobbi Hummel. Planner Nate Sparks. Board Chair John Pazlar was absent.

Notice was posted on the township's website and at the Town Hall more than 72 hours prior to October 27th, 2023.

The sole purpose of the special meeting is to consider a moratorium on the issuance of demolition permits for structures on certain properties within the township, and consider a request by Washington County to temporary store a bridge at their gravel pit within the township.

Acting Chair Steve Magner called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Planner Sparks presented a draft ordinance for consideration. A moratorium authorizing the study and imposing a moratorium on the issuance of demolition permits. The study is to evaluate ordinances relating to the preservation of historic structures/sites in the comprehensive plan. Recent and future changes in ownership have created conversations about what happens to the structures on the larger parcels in the township. Examples such as Arcola Mills, Kelley Farms, Wilder Forest, and Warner Nature Center. There are buildings on these sites that are an integral part of the towns' character and are historic in nature. Sparks also suggests that the Board may wish to add an exception to the draft ordinance for instances in which a structure is hazardous or in a state of imminent collapse. The draft moratorium is specifically on the issuance of demolition permits.

Supervisor Magner outlines that this conversation started a couple years ago when Wilder Forest was for sale and when Washington County Parks was considering expansion into the area. The school house was a concern. Furthermore, the township does not have an inventory of exactly what/how many buildings are on some of the larger sites in the township. Magner did speak with a Washington County Historical Society representative, he was advised to move forward with a moratorium to stop the demolition process to be able to make more informed decisions. Also advised, was forming a focus group together and coming up with new ordinances and creating an inventory of historic structures. Stillwater was cited as an example to look for historic preservation ordinances. This is the first step of a conservation process. Magner does not want to see something disappear with no effort to save it. There are two large parcels currently in process of being sold. He would like to add an exception to the draft ordinance for buildings found in a state of dis-repair, after review by the township building inspector and reviewed by the Board.

Supervisor Rolf would like to have a better idea of what historic properties are in the township. He suggests a voluntary survey on the township website for residents who have information or would like to know if their own lands have historic buildings on it. He feels this is needed and preserving

the history is important. Preservation is not only about land and lakes. This is a good first step and is excited to here about what historic building are in the township.

There are currently no pending demolition permits in the township. There is a house on Lynch that had a fire and the foundation has not been removed.

Sparks added an exemption and study authorization sections as suggested by the Board, this new draft ordinance was reviewed and printed/signed during the meeting.

Magner motions to approve Ordinance 2023-04, seconded by Rolf. By roll call vote. Rolf YES, Magner YES, Pazlar ABSENT. Motion Passed.

Bridge Storage at Washington County Gravel Pit

Washington County Planner, Dan Elder has requested to temporarily store a bridge at their gravel pit in the township.

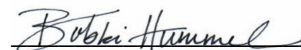
Magners identifies a good working relationship with Washington County Public Works and like to work with them on this request. This is a remote location and it will be out of site. All questions/concerns have been addressed.

Magner motions to approve a temporary bridge storage and repair of the 160’ bridge. Seconded by Rolf. By roll call vote: Magner YES, Rolf YES, Pazlar ABSENT. Motion passed.

Clerk Hummel will email Washinton County to let them know their request is granted. The Clerk will request publication of ordinance 2023-04 for next week’s publication.


Meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m.

Submitted:



Bobbi Hummel
Clerk/Treasurer

Approved:



Steve Magner
Board Supervisor, Acting Chair