

BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP  
PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING  
MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2025  
MINUTES

- I. CALL TO ORDER - Meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm.
- II. ROLL CALL AND DETERMINATION OF QUORUM - Horney, Barbu, Iwanicki, Greenwald, Oliver, present. Quorum obtained. Township Zoning Commissioner, Karl Werner and Planning Consultant, Nanney, were present.
- III. REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA – Horney moved, Iwanicki seconded, to approve the agenda as amended. Approved by unanimous vote.
- IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Oliver moved, Iwanicki seconded, to approve the June 16, 2025 Planning Committee minutes. Approved by unanimous vote.
- V. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION – NONE
- VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS – The regular PC meeting closed at 7:10 pm by unanimous vote, in order to convene a Public Hearing regarding Gerkin Minerals’ SLU Permit Amendment for Sand and Gravel Extraction Operation Expansion. Moved by Horney, seconded by Iwanicki, and with a unanimous ‘yes’, the Public Hearing opened at 7:20 pm. Representatives of Gerkin Minerals were present: Todd Crane, Mandy Gerkin, Ross Mellgren and Chip Tokar. Mr. Tokar of Natural Resources Management, Swanton, Ohio, gave a PowerPoint presentation explaining and showing current mining operations, expansion information/proposal, and reclamation targeted for 2027. This includes maintaining natural features outside the extraction area (noise, dust control, elevation 5’ above the water table), drainage, erosion and sedimentation inspected, and topography maintained. Also, wetlands will be preserved and groundwater will be monitored by wells. Gerkin began the current site operations in 2005, and has been required to renew the SLU every 5 years. This current Permit and Expansion Application was the reason for the Public Hearing. Willow Rd residents, Sean Lowery and Angela Blatchford, expressed concerns of noise and dust as trees had been removed along the perimeter of the Willow side of the operation. Their home is across the road and up a hill. Prior to the tree removal, they did not hear noise nor experience extra dust. Mr Tokar explained ongoing reclamation and restoration would address these complaints. Township Engineer, Kris Enlow, stated 4 requirements: 1) a tree survey, 2) 250’ setback clearly marked, 3) dust control, and 4) ongoing reclamation/restoration accelerated. Tokar’s presentation was extensive and he answered questions with enough satisfaction of the attendees and the Planning Commission, that Barbu moved and Oliver seconded to resume the regular Planning Commission meeting at 8:00. Passed unanimously.

- VII. OLD BUSINESS- The last Planning Commission Meeting, which was in June (there was no July meeting) was attended by Invenergy, a company desiring to contract Bridgewater Township farmland for solar farm development. A Public Hearing had been scheduled for September. Invenergy was not in attendance this evening. Nor has the Planning Commission received any direct communication from Invenergy. Therefore, there will be no September Public Hearing.
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS- The new Manchester Township Master Plan was discussed briefly, as it relates to the boundary between townships.
- IX. COMMUNICATIONS –
- A. Zoning Administrator’s Report – Carl Werner submitted the May report.
  - B. Planning Commission Consultant Report - Nanney reported the state is working on bills for anaerobic digesters, which are considered renewable energy.
- IX. Trustee’s report – Board matters were previously discussed and included in these minutes.
- X. PUBLIC COMMENT – NONE
- XI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS - The next Planning Commission meeting will be held on September 15, 2025, at 7:00 pm.
- ADJOURNMENT – Motion to adjourn was made by Oliver, seconded by Horney, and passed by unanimous vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:19 pm.