

MAIDEN ROCK TOWNSHIP OPERATION ORDINANCE STUDY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes October 7, 2024

The Ordinance Study Committee met on Monday, October 7, 2024 at the Town Hall. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Maryanne Wise. Also present were members Terry Timm, Bruce Thomes, John Danneker, Kathy Arndt, Cindy Nelson, and Judy Krohn. Jerry Duden, Town Chair, was also in attendance. The meeting notice was properly posted in 3 places; however, the notice posted at the Town Hall had suspiciously disappeared.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Maryanne began the meeting by thanking all the committee members for their dedication to the study, meetings and outside research. Motion was made by Terry, seconded by Bruce to approve the minutes of the September 4, 2024 meeting.

Maryanne started the discussion of our committee's site visit to Ridge Breeze Dairy on September 21; her reaction was that the visit was sobering and overwhelming. Attending the site visit were committee members Terry Timm, Maryanne Wise, Judy Krohn, Town Chair Jerry Duden, Missi Blue & Riley Hince of Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance, and neighbors Arne Nyen and Rob Meyer. Our visit lasted about 3 hours, and included an outdoor explanation of the layout of the current operation and facilities, along with plans for location of new structures. We saw cows being milked in the milking parlor, and being fed in the free-stall barn. Along the way, we visitors were able to ask questions of the three owners/managers of the business: Greg Wolf, Brad Gerrits and Kevin (?); however we were not allowed to take photos. Following the tour, a list of our previously-submitted questions was discussed during a cordial conversation in an office. Questions included topics such as **Work Force** make-up, housing & safety, **Water Quality** testing, ground & surface water protections, well/water usage, runoff abatement, manure handling and removal, **Building Engineering** and **Fire/Emergency Response**, **Avian Flu** protocol, **Animal Mortality** concerns, **Air Quality**, **Truck Traffic and Road Damage**, **Soil Health**, **Relationships with Neighbors** and greater Community, potential on-site **Bio-digester**, and the feasibility/common sense of creating a facility at such a scale. The Dairy feels that it meets or exceeds all current regulatory requirements for operation. We agreed together that it would be important to maintain open communications with one another.

We next reviewed a letter that will be sent to all Maiden Rock land owners listed on the Ridge Breeze Dairy Nutrient Management Plan on behalf of the Town Board. The letter has been reviewed by counsel Robert Loberg. There is a correction to a contact phone number that will be made before the letter is sent to those listed land owners. Motion made by John, seconded by Kathy to mail the letter, along with the Town's updated road ordinance to the land owners. All voting aye, motion carried.

For our next order of business, Lisa Doerr <protectyourtown.org> joined us by phone to review/change/correct the Draft Operations Ordinance to be sent to the Town Board for its review/approval. There were discussions concerning how we define a CAFO (1000 animal units—the EPA standard), enforcement mechanisms, self-reporting, surety bonding, site-specific air quality reporting, navigable & impaired waters in our Town, more updated Public Health information, Avian Flu and biodigester. The ordinance will apply to any defined CAFO that uses Maiden Rock Town land for manure disposal, no matter where the facility is located. The application fee of \$1.00 per animal unit must be submitted to the Town, along with the permit and due annually. The permit will be reviewed/renewed annually.

The Ordinance will be available on the Town's website, which Lisa will set up for us. A motion was made by Cindy, seconded by Terry to submit the Draft Ordinance to the Town Board at their upcoming meeting on October 14. All voting aye. Attorney Robert Loberg will be asked to review the Draft (he can also consult with attorneys familiar with similar ordinances: Nick Vivian, of the Eckberg Firm, and Paul Mahler of Bakke Norman firm.)

If the Board chooses to adopt the Draft Ordinance, it will be posted on October 21, 2024, with any written public comments due to Town Clerk Carla Schuster by November 8, 2024. The next meeting of the Town Board will be November 11, 2024; the Ordinance Committee will meet at 5:30 p.m. before the Town Board meeting on that same day, to review public comments. There will be a public hearing for the Ordinance on November 16, 2024, 10:00 a.m. at the Lund Fire Hall. Final approval of the Ordinance will occur at the December 9 meeting of the Town Board.

John suggested that the Town post signs on all roads entering the Town that there is a CAFO road ordinance in place. Motion by Maryanne, seconded by Kathy to do such posting.

A motion by Cindy, seconded by Kathy to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. All voting aye.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Krohn