

Royalton Township Working Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
6052 Royalton Road, Braham, MN 55006
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14 July 2026
Approved

6:30 p.m., 14 July 2026, Chair Jeff Schlaeger convened the Royalton Township working planning commission meeting with Members Pete Belland, Barb Dreyer, Jan Patterson, and Clerk Duane Swanson present. Septic Administrator Amy Thompson and members of the public also attended.

Member Belland explained several issues relating to Hummingbird Road: A new field driveway has been installed north of Gary Olson's without a permit and with a culvert that may not meet township specifications. The commission, by consensus, recommended that the board determine how to handle it. It was also noted that part of the property appears for sale but that no application for a minor subdivision had been filed. Member Belland also noted that a potential problem exists with the driveway culvert at 4694 Hummingbird Road where the culvert has sunk so that water drains in the wrong direction. Clerk Swanson reported that two landowners on the west side of Hummingbird had been sent letters informing them that brushing would occur prior to ditching and that permission is needed to remove trees in the right-of-way.

Clerk Swanson updated the commission regarding the situation at 8738 Greeley Road. Owner Gavin Veigel had been informed that the current slab in the road right-of-way cannot be used as foundation for another structure and to discuss options with Zoning Administrator John Kemen.

Clerk Swanson reported that he had received three email complaints about activities over the 11-12 July weekend at the campsite on Royal River Road. Two involve unleashed dogs and one involved a concern over nine people on the campsite. The campsite owners have been in touch with the neighbor regarding planting of two additional trees.

John DeGray addressed the commission requesting that specific citations to the zoning ordinance be shared about why the solar panels and security fence at 7440 Cabin Drive were allowed within the property setbacks. He also questioned the placement of the panels.

Patrice DeGray addressed the commission on her and others' attendance at a listening session of the Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) meeting in St. Cloud. She noted that Pine County has the largest number of applications from potential cannabis growers in the state. She encouraged the township to limit the number of licenses that could be issued in the township. She also noted that OCM officials expressed concern over the amount of light emanating from the operation at 7440 Cabin Drive.

Commission members reviewed the latest version of the updated zoning ordinance from legal counsel. Clerk Swanson noted major changes in this version: the prohibition of large data centers and the prohibition of large solar farms, the inclusion of regulations on adult-oriented businesses, the formation of a new zoning district (the agricultural-residential commercial district) and the need to define its boundaries. Members expressed agreement with the wording. Members Dreyer and Patterson and Clerk Swanson were tasked with reviewing the wording for spelling errors. Septic Administrator Thompson suggested the inclusion of language from Chisago County making the permitting of short-term rentals retroactive to existing unpermitted units; the commission concurred.

PB  BD JMP  JS  DPS 

Member Belland updated the commission on the complaint of a tree growing in the driveway at 10009 Bears Ear Road. Upon investigation the tree is actually on the neighbor's property and although it is in the right-of-way, so is the driveway and many other trees. The complainant was encouraged to discuss the situation with the neighbor.

Chair Schlaeger updated members on the fire district study and recent events surrounding potential options for fire service in the area, noting specifically negotiations between Pokegama Township and the city of Brook Park about fire service, the possibilities of installing dry hydrants in Royalton, and the rearrangement of fire service boundaries within Royalton.

The commission had a general discussion about the establishment of regular office hours for the township and the increase in site, septic, and building permit applications and town hall rentals.

At 8:00 p.m., Chair Schlaeger concluded the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Duane P. Swanson, Clerk/Member



Pete Belland, Supervisor/Member

Barb Dreyer, Member



Jan Patterson, Member

Jeff Schlaeger, Chair/Member

