

Meeting Notes

(Approved as written, 3 Oct 17)

Town of Greenville

Land Stewardship/AEA Committee

Tuesday, 29 August 2017 (5:00 pm)

Greenville Town Hall

Present: Larry Bentle, Sally Bowers, Eric Fowle, Joel Gregozeski, Dave Johnson, John Julius, Tim Menning, Zen Miller, Steve Nagy, Pete Schroeder, Michelle Sargent, Dave Tebo, Allyson Watson (guest).

1. Call to order. 5:04 pm.
2. Approval of 17 July 2017 meeting minutes. The meeting minutes/notes were amended to reflect the correct June meeting date of 5 June and not 6 June. The amended minutes were approved (motion by Dave J., Tim 2nd).
3. Formation of a non-profit organization-overview (Allyson Watson, UW-Extension). Allyson gave a comprehensive overview of what is required to set up a non-profit tax-exempt organization (i.e. a 501.c.3) with the IRS. It requires considerable work plus upfront money to hire a CPA and lawyer for financial and legal input. The application process takes about 2 years to successfully accomplish. The advantages and disadvantages of incorporating as a non-profit organization were given. Please reference Allyson's handout (Attachment I) for details and websites that provide forms and application instructions. A few key points:
 - a. The subject organization must first be organized as a trust, corporation or association.
 - b. Organization by-laws are required to establish organizational structure.
 - i. In any event, by-laws are key to an organizations structure and purpose. **Steve, John and Allyson** agreed to have a 1st draft of by-laws ready for review at our next meeting (3 October).
 - c. At least 3 directors for the organization must be established with appropriate titles and the responsibilities for each. At least one person must be the publically registered agent.
 - d. A purpose or mission statement for the organization is required.
 - e. If application requirements are met, the IRS issues a tax-exempt certificate.
 - f. The organization must file a non-profit tax return annually.

If it is decided in the future that it is in the best interest of the Land Stewardship/AEA Committee to pursue establishing the committee as a non-profit organization, it will require considerable discussion, time and effort.

Thank you Allyson for your time and effort to provide us with this information.

4. AEA signage.
 - a. Committee account. An account for our committee has been set up with the Town of Greenville. Thank you Lisa, our town treasurer, and to Dave Tebo for setting this up. At the time of this meeting, donations totaling \$2100 have been made for our AEA landowner sign initiative. The Town will record/maintain all account activity.
 - b. How many sign blanks and stakes to order? *A motion was made (motion by Pete 1st, Steve 2nd), discussed and passed that we order 30 aluminum sign blanks (18" x 24" x 0.08") and 30 8' steel stakes for mounting the finished signs.* The vendor is RJ Marx Graphics. To obtain the quoted price it was required that a quantity of the above raw materials be ordered. Additional fund donations will be required to complete printing of ~20 of the 30 total signs.
 - c. It was confirmed that sign landowner acreage represented on the sign be that total acreage that the specific landowner has in the Greenville AEA as determined by Town records.

5. Community Ag education.
 - a. Polar Academy tour report. The committee is pleased that we could contribute to this year's Academy and perhaps stimulate HASD students on what it takes to establish and operate a business.
 - i. Zen reported that 9 HASD teachers that attended this year's Polar Academy (ref: 17 July mtg notes) toured the McCarthy Dairy and Dietrich Beef farm operations. These are modern Agribusiness operations represent both the technology and business knowledge required to run the operations. There were good discussions and hopefully the information can be integrated into their classrooms this coming school year.
 - ii. The academy participants also toured Steve's Homestead Meadows Event Center. Steve's business developed on small acreage provides an example of a unique farm setting at which to hold special events such as weddings, banquets and area business events. It represents an example for classroom study on how to successfully establish and operate a small business that has an underlying agricultural appealing theme.
 1. The HASD pumpkin patch (~2 acres) on Steve's property is growing exceptionally well (Attachment II and ref: 17 July notes). Hopefully many pumpkins can be sold in October (places to be determined) to support the Trim Hunger Campaign. It is likely to be linked to one of the events reported on below by Sally.
 - b. Sally reported via email on 28 Aug and also mentioned this evening that "our three Little Chefs will be featured, cooking with Senior Chefs, at

Fox River Brewery 9/12/17, Appleton Beer Factory 9/19/17 and Gingerootz 9/26/17. Tickets for a seat are \$40 each and table sponsorship is available for \$2500 (8 seats, advertising, t-shirts, Little Chef's Cookbooks and first to taste test). Reserve your spot and pay by calling the restaurants direct. Tickets will be waiting for you at the hostess desk when you arrive. Proceeds go to support our Farm 2 School efforts in the HASD and Trim Hunger".

6. YMCA unfarmed property, report. Brenda Johnson, Executive Director of our local YMCA reported via email that the YMCA's 13 acres of available farmland has now been rented to an area farmer. She was very appreciative of our suggestions and discussions at our last meeting on what could be done with the unfarmed property (ref: 17 July notes).
7. NE Wisconsin Land Trust (discussion, scheduling a representative). **Dave J.** is to request if a representative from NE Wisconsin Land Trust would be available to speak to our committee about their organization and programs on a date within the first 2 weeks of December.
8. LS/AEA Goal development. Goal development for our committee and our activities is of utmost importance to define "who we are" and our "purpose". It will be the first item on our next meeting's agenda.
 - a. Eric will reformat the LS/AEA goal revised draft dated 28 August 2017. The reformatted goal document will be sent out by email. It will have columns added that are to be **filled in by committee members and returned before next meeting**; for example with:
 - i. The year in which to accomplish a given strategy and related tasks,
 - ii. A prioritization of goals and strategies (e.g. most importance to least),
 - iii. Our names attached to certain goals and strategies that we are willing and able to actively contribute to.
 - iv. Other information thought needed to best finalize our goal document that will define "our purpose" as a committee.
9. Next meeting date. **3 October 2017, 5:00 pm at the Greenville Town Hall.**
10. Current LS/AEA news.
 - a. John handed out a reference of the early Greenville history (Attachment III).
 - b. The Vandermaazen property on Hwy 76 has reportedly been bought in part by a New London area resident.
11. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm (motion by Pete, Steve 2nd).