

Draft Meeting Notes

Town of Greenville

Land Stewardship/AEA Committee

Monday, 18 February 2019 (5:00 pm)

Greenville Town Hall

Present: Present: Larry Bentle, Michael Brown, Sarah Grotjan, John Julius, Mia Ljung, Tim Menning, Steve Nagy, Pete Schroeder & Loren Steinacker.

Next Meeting: 18 March, Monday (5:00 pm at the Town Hall)

“To do,” items are indicated in red.”

1. Call to order. 5:03 pm.
2. Approval of 14 January 2019 meeting minutes. Draft minutes were approved as written (Motion by Pete, 2nd by Steve).

Old Business:

1. Committee account (Larry). Account balance is \$1068. **John will contact the Gun Club** to determine when we may erect a sign or two when the weather allows. They donated to our committee account.
2. Greenville Bike and Trail Committee (John).
 - a. Map. The proposed trail map has not been changed since our last meeting (see 14 Jan 2019 mtg notes). John is collecting resident comments on how best to construct surface road crossings or underpasses for the Town’s trails. It was noted that for constructed underpasses they be made sufficient for animals to cross busy roads. John has Dane County’s plan for trails and connections to other townships to use as a guide. A street and trail map of a Wisconsin Amish community was shown as an example of a means to promote area businesses (see [Attachment I](#)). Could this be applied to Greenville in a similar manner that incorporates future trails and streets (e.g. Ag Tourism)?
 - b. Trail type. The next Trail Committee mtg is on 20 March at 1:00 pm to discuss where in the Town to recommend a “side-of-the-road” path or an independent “off-the-road” path.
 - c. 2019 roadwork. **John will find out what type of trail/path** is planned for the 2019 road resurfacing on Julius Dr. between Spring and School road.

- d. Funding. Loren related that government funding for paths are likely be the first cut when road funds are short. For snow mobile trails the local club pays for the upkeep, etc. through membership dues and also arranges to cross private farmland. Clubs usually lease the right for a path through private farmland. Liability is generally covered in the lease. A number of their fields are crossed by snowmobile trails set up in this manner.
 - e. Private land trails. For the possibility of bike and walking trails that would cross private property (e.g. farmland), Loren suggested a “user fee” be used/collected, similar to a snowmobile club. It remains to be determined on how best to collect such a fee.
3. Town incorporation, (Michael). The Town Board and other project members are meeting right now to work on the Village Application to the state. We currently operate like a village with all the required services. Therefore, the process is rather easy in this respect and now just need to assemble the application and send it in.
 4. Comprehensive plan, (Michael). The next meeting is on 25 Feb at 4:30 pm to review the data from our last brainstorming meeting and condense it into a usable form.
 5. AEA expansion, landowner inquiries (Jeff). No report.
 6. Community Ag education -HASD.
 - a. Ag facility tours for HS students (Sarah). Sarah has talked with Amber L. (Hortonville HS) to request that some of the students that took part in two local business tours (see 14 Jan 2019 mtg notes) write up a tour report for our Newsletter and local newspapers. There were about 25 junior and senior students from Amber’s business class that took part in the tours.
 - b. School related activities (Sally). No new news as per email from Sally.

New Business:

1. Field of Dreams Project (Michael). Meeting this evening at 6:00 pm.
2. Land Trusts, recent inquires (Mia).
 - a. Non-profit organizations or municipalities as per WI law can run Land Conservancies. Grants at the State level are available. **Mia said she would further pursue Northeast Land Trust** to see if it would be possible to tap into their organization to establish a farmland protection program for Greenville.
 - b. The Town of Dunn (adjacent to the city of Madison) has had a farmland protection program in place since 1997 that includes

Purchase of Development Rights (PDR); see [Attachment II](#). About 40% of an administration person's time is used to apply for program grants and to oversee their Town's tax levy for the program.

3. What does Ag Enterprise Mean to Non-farmers & Small Struggling Farmers (Steve).
 - a. ***Our Greenbelt together with its Agricultural Enterprise Area are exceptional among other AEAs in Wisconsin*** due to its proximity to the Fox Cities. The real question is "what can we do with this asset that is so near to us and other similarly designated areas and AEAs do not have?" Steve presented a vision for Greenville's Greenbelt/AEA (see [Attachment III](#)) that outlines what we have and our truly unique opportunities.
 - b. [Attachment IV](#) entitled "Differentiated Ag-Related Ideas for Greenville's AEA" presents some reasoning and examples of what we as the Land Stewardship Committee can research and promote. Unique opportunities are available for us to discuss and explore.
 - c. Conservation Field Day sponsored by the Outagamie County Land Conservation Department was held on 18-20 September 2018 for the first time at Steve's Homestead Meadows Farm. For many years it was held at the Pat Koenke farm located just a mile or two away in our Greenville Township. See [Attachment V](#) that describes the event with a map (last page) of the 9 individual educational stations that the students could visit along a walking trail to learn about various aspects of agriculture and conserving what we have.
4. Related area news & topics (All). No additional news.
5. Next meeting. **Monday, 18 March 2019, 5:00 pm at the Town Hall.**
6. Adjournment. 6:37 pm.