

Meeting Notes

(Approved 10 Apr 2018, draft #2 - no changes)

Town of Greenville

Land Stewardship/AEA Committee

Regular Mtg

Tuesday, 27 February 2018 (5:00 pm)

Greenville Town Hall

Present: Larry Bentle, Sarah Grotjan, Dave Johnson, John Julius, Steve Nagy, Pete Schroeder, and Jeff Steinacker. Joel Gregozeski and Sally Bowers were not present; however, provided input via email.

Next Meeting: **10 April 2018, Tuesday (5:00 pm at the Town Hall)**

1. Call to order. 5:06 pm.
2. Approval of 30 January 2018 meeting minutes. Approved as written (motion by Dave, 2nd by Steve).
3. LS/AEA Goal FINAL review & vote to approve.
 - a. **The committee unanimously approved our 3-Year (2018-2010) Strategic Plan (Attachment I).** Eric Fowle had distributed it (designated as: February 2018 version) via email on 25 February to committee members for individual review. Also, prior to this evening's approval/adoption, the document was reviewed in detail to highlight each edit and goal reprioritization from that of the January 2018 version (see 30 Jan 2018 meeting notes, Attach II). This February 2018 version was then unanimously approved (approval motion by Pete, 2nd by Steve).
 - b. The approved document is ready to forward to the Greenville Planning Committee, Town Board and others, as appropriate.
4. Committee by-laws, first attempt (Steve). Steve drafted and distributed a first draft of "Bylaws" for our Greenville Land Stewardship Committee. The document was reviewed. Select edits were discussed and made. Steve will incorporate the edits. The revised draft will be redistributed by email for further comments and then further reviewed at our next meeting.
5. Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA) & Greenbelt
 - a. Committee account status. Larry received from Lisa Beyer (Town Treasurer) the balance of our committee account. The balance as of 27 February 2018 was \$868. No outstanding invoices.
 - b. AEA Signage update.

- i. The number of Greenville AEA Landowner signs erected remains the same as last month at 16. Two printed signs remain to be erected. Ten aluminum blanks are available for printing upon identification of additional AEA landowners.
 - ii. A rough draft was circulated of a 1-page Land Stewardship and AEA “who we are” letter that would include a donation request. The end intent would be to circulate such a letter to area businesses, etc. to 1) increase awareness of our committee’s vision and mission for the Town of Greenville and 2) ask for support donations. An envelope would accompany the letter addressed directly to the Town Hall for deposit of any gift into the committee account. It was decided by the committee to continue to refine the one page letter for further review.
 - c. Hwy 15 corridor and our new Planning Director (Joel’s email update).
 - i. The Town Board has directed staff to develop a recommendation to extend utility services along the State Hwy 15 corridor to the western town limits. In addition, the Town Board is requesting more information regarding annexation of the Town from Hortonville. Furthermore, the Town Board is requesting information regarding the incorporation of the Town into a village. Information will begin to be presented during the months of March and at the April Town meeting.
 - ii. Michael Brown has been selected and has formally accepted the position of Community & Economic Development Director for the Town of Greenville. Michael’s first day is planned for Monday, March 12, 2018. Michael is a Wisconsin native and has previously served as the Community Development Director for the Village of Lake in the Hills, IL, Community Development Director for the City of Ironwood, MI; and as Planner for the Village of Montgomery, IL. Michael has a graduate degree in Environmental Science and Policy with an undergraduate degree in Urban and Regional Studies; both from UW Green Bay.
 - d. Greenbelt Planning. Due to Joel’s above report on the Hwy 15 corridor, discussion ensued concerning the Greenbelt, AEA and likely rezoning of the Greenbelt along Hwy 15. What will rezoning from Tier III to something else look like? What stance does our committee take and how to best become involved in this issue? What does this mean for the future of other undeveloped farmland in the Greenbelt? Would our residents be willing to monetarily support planned protection of open land (Ag & other) within the Town?

- i. John brought up the topic of a Greenville structured “Purchase of Development Rights program” (PDR) to protect Greenbelt lands outside a proposed Hwy 15 corridor. What could a tailor-made, Greenville PDR (or equivalent) program look like? Could it be done here in Greenville? What is the educational and planning avenue required to design a Greenville plan and get support of residents and Town government?
 - 1. Officially sanctioned, local, PDR programs are eligible for grants, both federal and private.
 - 2. John recently communicated with a North Carolina farmer who participates in a local PDR program that is privately funded. What are the demographics of this NC community and how is the program structured?
- ii. Dave brought up the possibility of specific Ag (A1) zoning for sections of Greenville. Could that work?
- iii. Larry suggested that we as a committee should prioritize what Greenbelt lands are most important to protect. This is proposed as an action item. Key involvement by Town and County Planning officials is needed.

e. Other pertinent news.

- i. Milk prices received for the farmer are very low, around \$13-14/100 lbs. Dairy farming today is extremely difficult as this price is not much different from that received in the 1960s. Even trying to find a dairy processor that will take your milk is difficult.
- ii. Pat Koeknke’s farm in Section 33 has been for sale for several months. The Town Planning Commission at their 26 Feb 2018 meeting approved a new survey to divide the property into 2 parcels to facilitate the sale. The two parcels will include a farm building parcel and a second parcel of 130-140 acres of Ag-land, woodland and wetland.

6. Community Ag education.

a. HASD.

- i. Sara shared a list of questions that she intends to use to interview a select number of the HASD students that took part in the 11 December 2017 tour of the Steinacker and Jentz farms. Sarah plans to write an article about the tours that will include student responses to some of her written questions.
- ii. Sally shared by email:

1. Set up is now complete of the hoop house that was donated by FVTC (see 30 January notes). Thanks to Eagle Scout Christopher Lamers and the team. It cost \$5,400 to wire for electricity. Currently purchasing planting materials, shelving, etc. Classes are ready to use the outdoor classroom.
2. February 5th, Career & Technical Ed Fair at the high school. Four areas of technical education were showcased: Graphic Arts, Engineering, Metals and Woods/Construction. Student attendance was ~50, down slightly from the past.
3. FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) sessions. Healthy Foods Cooking, held on Saturdays, K-12 (filled up). Kids in the Kitchen, 3rd and 4th grades, headed by Julie Manthe (filled up).
4. The first two meetings for planning the 2018-19 Little Chefs Event were held the first week in March. Marketing, Other District and Organizational Involvement, and Date Planning was discussed. FVTC, Fox Valley Schools and Fox Valley Restaurants will be invited to join in.

b. Fox Valley Technical Center. A tour of the Steinacker farm by FVTC Ag Finance students is scheduled for 14 March.

7. NE Wisconsin Land Trust, presentation of 30 Jan (reflective thoughts). This topic was postponed to a future date due to meeting time constraints.

8. Next meeting. **10 April 2018, Tuesday, 5:00 pm at the Town Hall**

9. Adjournment. Mtg adjourned at 7:02 pm.

Parking lot for future meeting(s):

- a) Web site.
- b) Potential role of the WI Agricultural Tourism to support Greenville's Greenbelt