

Meeting Notes
(Approved 27 Feb 18, no changes)

Town of Greenville
Land Stewardship/AEA Committee
Regular Mtg

Tuesday, 30 January 2018 (5:00 pm)
Greenville Town Hall

Present: Larry Bentle, Sally Bowers, Eric Fowle, Joel Gregozeski, Sarah Grotjan, Dave Johnson, Jean Julius, Steve Nagy, and Pete Schroeder, Jeff Steinacker. Deborah Nett and Julie Hawkins-Tyrriver (guest speakers).

Next meeting: 27 February 2018, Tuesday (5:00 pm @ Town Hall)

1. Call to order. Called to order at 5:03 pm.
2. Approval of 5 December 2017 meeting minutes. Approved as written (motion by Steve, 2nd by Pete)
3. LS/AEA Goal review & approval.
 - a. Eric handed out 2 well-developed documents containing a 3-year strategic plan (goals), one a short version of our Committee's goals (Attachment I) and the second a more detailed version of our goals that included a brief history of our Greenville AEA (Attachment II). Thank you Eric for all your work.
 - b. After a brief discussion, Eric requested that **any final additions/corrections be returned to Eric by 16 February**. He will incorporate and send out the final version ready for committee approval at our next meeting on 27 February. Upon our approval the goal statements will be ready to be shared with the Planning Commission and the Town Board.
4. Agricultural Enterprise Area (AEA) signage.
 - a. Committee account status. The balance in our committee's account is **\$868** as of 6 Feb 18 with no outstanding invoices pending.
 - b. 18 of 20 printed AEA signs have been erected, same as reported at our 5 Dec meeting due to the frozen ground. There remain 10 blanks at RJ Marx that could be printed (\$38/sign) once other landowners have been contacted and agree to erect signs on their property. **Pete, Jeff and Larry are to determine the best placing for additional signs and contact AEA other landowners for their permission/cost sharing.**

- c. Dave Johnson reported that he is working with 6-8 townships located in Waupaca and Outagamie counties to set up an AEA that would comprise approximately 130,000 acres. They are currently working on the application to send into DATCP (Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection) just as we did in 2014 and 2015 to establish our AEA. The application deadline is June.
5. Community Ag education.
- a. On 11 December the Steinacker Farm and Jentz Farm hosted a student tour students from Hortonville High School. The students were given presentations of what all is required to successfully operate a large grain operation and raising of commercial beef cattle.
 - b. As reported at our 5 Dec 17 meeting, Little Chefs program received a \$5000 donation from Trim Hunger for the HASD farm 2 school program. The Team agreed to donate some money to our signage program. **At our next meeting we need to address this this generous offer.**
 - c. Fox Valley Tech has donated a large greenhouse (hoop house) to Hortonville High school. The greenhouse is already erected with plans developed by Jim Beard, formally a FVTC instructor. It will be heated.
 - d. Michelle Johnson and Sally are working with other outside organizations to further expand the Farm 2 School program.
6. **NE Wisconsin Land Trust** (Deborah Nett, Julie Hawkins-Tyrriver guest speakers).
- a. Highlights of the presentation (see Attachment III for more detail).
 - o They are an independent organization, not government affiliated or political. They are about public benefit.
 - o NE WI Land Trust is 1 of about 50 land trusts in Wisconsin, of which, there are about 10 regional (larger size) trusts. NE WI Land Trust is one of the larger, formed in 1996.
 - o They serve 12 counties in NE Wisconsin. It was first founded as a watershed protection group along the Fox/Wolf Rivers. Later its boundaries were trimmed to specific county boundaries to make administration easier.
 - o They received accreditation in 2017 and are currently preserving about 5,000 acres of watershed area.
 - o In general they select land to be protected with regard to impact on water quality, recreation and habitats for animals. This can be done by: 1) Outright purchase of land to create public preserves that are open to the public. 2) Formation of

conservation easements in which the landowner still owns the land (the majority of their work) with the land protected from development in perpetuity.

- They receive about 60 requests/yr. of which about 2 applications are approved.
- Landowners who have donated the development rights to subject lands can use the donated value as long-term tax deductions.
- NE WI Land Trust does not currently deal with the preservation of Ag land strictly for Agriculture sake, but they are looking into it. To add this program to its profile requires additional financial resources for management of Ag easements. There are other Trust organizations that do deal with Ag Land Trusts, but NE WI LT does not know if any other organization is currently seeking Ag land right now.

7. Next meeting. **27 February 2018, 5:00 pm at the Town Hall**

8. Current News.

- a. By the end of February and for sure in March the Town of Greenville will hire our “Commercial & Economic Development Director”. This person should become an active partner in our committee’s planning and activities.

- b. A proposal for developing a car dealership is coming before the Town Planning Board. It is proposed to be located on the NW corner of JJ and Hwy 15. This is within our Greenbelt. Rezoning would need to occur. **This needs active participation by Land Stewardship/AEA committee members to determine how to best preserve our greenbelt. A public meeting of Greenville’s Planning board is scheduled for Monday, February 19th.** The time of the meeting is still to be determined, but likely at or about 5:00 pm. A notice will go out confirming the time.

9. Adjournment. Mtg adjourned at 6:45 pm (motion by Dave, Pete 2nd).

Parking lot for future meeting(s):

- a) Web site
- b) PDR & TDR.
- c) Committee by-laws.