

## Meeting Notes

(Approved at 6 Feb 2017 mtg.)

Town of Greenville

# Land Stewardship/AEA Committee

**Tuesday, 13 December 2016 (5:00 pm)**

Greenville Town Hall

Present: Larry Bentle, Dave Johnson, John Julius, Tim Menning, Dennis Meyer (guest speaker), Zen Miller, Steve Nagy, Jeff Steinacker and Dave Tebo.

**(Next mtg: Monday, 6 February 2017 at 5:00 PM, Town Hall)**

**NOTE: In bold print below, please find “to do” items for this meeting.**

1. Call to order. 5:05 pm.
2. Approval of 27 September meeting minutes. Draft minutes were approved as written with no amendments (motion by John J., 2<sup>nd</sup> Tim M.)
3. **“Agrihood” Presentation/discussion by Dennis Meyer.** Dennis Meyer lives in Ripon, WI, where he owns a small farm some of which is dedicated to growth of Christmas trees. His operation dedicates 5 acres to vegetable growth during the growing season plus a large greenhouse to continue producing during cold months. This or similar type/size operations defines an Agrihood once numerous houses and vegetable operations of this sort are collectively put together. Dennis has a strong interest in promoting this Agrihood concept of planned urban growth. He gave a good presentation with lively discussions. Thus, the Agrihood can be the basis of viable “Farm to Market” fresh food supply to the local community. For examples of numerous versions/concepts, Google Agrihood (e.g. Prairie Crossing, Grayslake, IL; Belfast Cohousing and Eco-Village, Maine and Bucking Horse, Fort Collins, Colorado). Could a version of this concept fit into Greenville’s Agricultural Greenbelt or other planned areas?
4. Local Farm/Ag education – status. On Monday, 12/12/16, eight members of our committee had a productive 2-hour meeting at the Greenville Middle School with interested HASD teachers on how local Agribusiness may potentially be of benefit to their curriculum. Some teachers at other sites joined the meeting electronically via Skype. Several collaborative concepts were discussed. It was concluded that the first opportunity be a tour of an Agribusiness facility (e.g. Dairy operation) with interested teachers. Jeff S. and Zen M. volunteered to set up a tour depending on the specific interests. Subsequently, in our committee meeting this evening, it was highly recommended that prior to an actual tour that the teachers meet with select

members of our committee to determine specific interests and be sure these interest are then addressed in the tour.

- a. **Larry** is to contact HASD to recommend a meeting be scheduled before an actual tour, plus provide HASD with Jeff and Zen's contact information.
5. Committee membership. Tim M. participated in this evening's meeting and the 12/12/16 school meeting. He is a landowner interested in our AEA and committee's efforts. Welcome Tim.
  6. AEA tax credits – update. A second AEA member has had their application for tax credits approved by DATCP (Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection).
  7. Signage & landscape opportunities. Dave J. presented an example of a 12" x 18" sign his group designed to designate Outagamie County Greenways. The approximate cost is \$25-30 for only a few signs from Eagle Sign & Design, LLC, Kaukauna, WI (920-759-1092; [www.goeaglesign.com](http://www.goeaglesign.com)). It was suggested to design a UV protected sign for use by AEA landowners to be placed on their own land.
    - a. **Larry** will work on the wording and present the committee with an initial concept.

It was confirmed that on Town roads the right-of-way extends a specified distance from the middle of the road (slightly beyond the ditch). To place any signage or similar display within the designated right-of-way requires a submission and subsequent approval by Town Government. For a future meeting, **Steve N.** will develop a concept of a Yellowstone Trail display for potential placement on the NW corner of Spencer Rd. and Julius Dr.

8. Fair Oaks Farms, Fair Oaks, Indiana – handout material of interest. Fair Oaks Farm literature was distributed to illustrate an outstanding example of Agricultural Tourism. It is possible that Ag Tourism could be worked into our Greenbelt initiative in some manner. Fair Oaks Farms is located about 50 miles southeast of Chicago on I-65 on the way to Indianapolis. If in the area, be sure to stop and spend the better part of a day there, it is extremely interesting. They milk over 30,000 cows over numerous farms, have hog operations and grow their own crops to support the operation. For information on Fair Oaks Farms, phone 877-536-1194 or visit their website (<https://fofarms.com>).
9. Adjournment. Meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm. Motion by Dave T., 2<sup>nd</sup> John J.

Topics for future meeting(s):

Greenville Land Stewardship Committee Plan (dtd Dec 2011):

- Existing goals, objectives & strategies. Still pertinent?
- Brainstorm new goals and strategies where applicable.
- PDR (Purchase of Development Rights) and TDR (Transfer of Development Rights).