

Meeting Notes (approved)

Town of Greenville  
**Land Stewardship/AEA Committee**

**Monday, 15 August 2016 (5:30 pm)**  
Greenville Town Hall

Present: Larry Bentle, Eric Fowle, Dave Johnson, John Julius, Steve Nagy, Pete Schroeder, and Dave Tebo.

**(Next meeting: Tuesday, 27 Sept. at 5:00 PM. Town Hall)**

1. Call to order. The meeting was called to order at 5:34 pm.
2. Approval of 20 June mtg minutes. Draft minutes were approved (motion by Pete, 2<sup>nd</sup> John.)
3. New committee membership. Pete and Larry will continue the recruitment effort among AEA landowners. Larry has attempted to reach one AEA landowner, but was not yet able to arrange a meeting. Pete met with another landowner and found that the farm may be up for sale or lease. Pete will try to contact another AEA landowner.
  - a. John initiated a discussion regarding, if in some manner, the Land Stewardship Committee might be of help to AEA to landowners who require assistance in maintaining ownership of their farm, if that is their desire, when facing difficult times. This is a topic that the Committee's should possibly consider if it is our Town's desire to preserve our Greenbelt for future residents.
  - b. John related that The Nathan Struensee Farm located southeast of the intersection of Julius Dr. and county road BB (Winnegamie Drive) just sold for residential development. This breaks a "contiguous land link" in that area for our AEA to possibly cross over BB (county line) and expand into Winnebago County.
4. AEA tax credits. Larry is progressing on his application.
5. Winnebago County Farm Land Preservation Planning Committee (attended 20 July). Dave Johnson, Dave Tebo and Larry attended this meeting via an invitation from Catherine Neiswender, UW Extension Professor of Community Development Education. Dave T. gave an excellent historical presentation of the development of Greenville's Greenbelt Area and the Land Stewardship Committee's work to establish our AEA with DATCP (Phase I and one year later Phase II). Dave J. shared what is required from the county

level to make an AEA happen. We related that valuable input was also received from the Eric Fowle, Regional Planning Office, in developing our AEA applications.

6. Centennial Farm program, Wisconsin. Larry and his wife Terrie were awarded a Centennial Farm Certificate at the State Fair in August.
  - a. At the end of the presentation session, Larry was able to have a meaningful conversation with Ben Brancel, DATCP Secretary. He was very familiar with our AEA. Larry expressed that it would be helpful for the preservation of Century Farms throughout Wisconsin to establish a state program or its equivalent that would prevent these farms from being lost from family ownership simply because land had to be sold to fund a landowner's remaining years in a nursing home. Mr. Brancel said he would consider this. Dave J. mentioned that it would help to contact our state representative, Dave Murphy, to possibly enlist his support. An initiative such as this relates in part to 3.a. above.
7. Farm/Ag education development. Dave T. has contacted the Hortonville School district to determine if our Land Stewardship/AEA Committee could partner with them in some way to further Ag education in our community. They have responded positively. We will try to set up an initial meeting.
8. AEA sub-website on our Town webpage. Larry will work with Kelly at the Town Hall to see what is possible to better highlight our AEA on the Town website.
9. Land Stewardship/AEA goals – discussion. Several topics were mentioned:
  - a. Steve mentioned the Barns Now Program in Wisconsin as a source of information on preservation of farm buildings. Their website is not often updated, but useful.
  - b. John related that the Greenville Grange Hall should soon be put on the State Historical Register. His family is working on this effort.
  - c. Eric related that Geo-tourism is a rapidly growing market. Could geo-tourism be pursued in some fashion for our Township? Perhaps the historical Yellowstone Trail could be promoted with this in mind ([www.yellowstonetrail.org/yt\\_history.htm](http://www.yellowstonetrail.org/yt_history.htm)). The basic question is what do we have in the form of geo-tourism that could attract visitors to our area. Other agricultural areas in the state have set up Barn Quilt biking trails, would this work for Greenville?
10. Adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 6:40.