



**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**ULYSSES AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE**  
May 11, 2016

Present: Greg Reynolds, John Wertis, John Gates, Chaw Chang, Supervisor Liz Thomas, 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Supervisor Michelle Wright

CALL TO ORDER 7:35PM

Krys Cail present at 7:39pm

1. 7:30 APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA

2. NEW BUSINESS

a) Appointment/election of Committee Chair

- Chaw Chang submitted his interest as Committee chair via e-mail prior to the meeting. Greg Reynolds submitted his interest verbally at the meeting.
- Each member voted on a piece of paper, Michelle Wright tallied the votes. Voting results:
  - 4 votes for Chaw
  - 1 vote for Greg

b) Procedural overview from Supervisor Thomas

- Committee members who did not already have a paper copy of the Ag Protection plan were given a hard copy. Supervisor Thomas stated that this along with the Comprehensive Plan should be used as guiding documents.
- The committee can submit suggestions to in the form of a resolution to the Town Board to change the resolution that formed the Ag committee.
- Michelle's role: minute taker and agenda creation.
- The typical procedure for meeting minutes is that draft minutes are distributed prior to the meeting and are then voted on.
- Any formal suggestions or communications to boards should be done in resolution form and voted on.
- All meetings are open meetings and are posted on Ulysses home page calendar
- Supervisor Thomas will serve as the ex-officio Town Board liaison, a position outlined in the resolution that originally created the committee.
- The resolution that created the Ag committee all outlined an ex-officio Cooperative Extension liaison.
  - Discussion ensued regarding involvement with CCE
- Anyone can be invited to these meetings to participate.

- Additional committee members can be requested to the Town Board via resolution.
- Regular meetings should be scheduled but can always be canceled
- Meetings should be set 1 week in advanced if possible
  - Discussion of meeting frequency and regular dates

Resolution:

RESOLVED that bi-weekly meetings are schedule on Thursdays at 7:30pm for 4 weeks from and then reassessed.

Moved: Mr. Wertis

Second: Mr. Reynolds

Reynolds AYE

Wertis AYE

Gates AYE

Chang AYE

Cail AYE

Motion passes unanimously

- Future meeting dates: May 26<sup>th</sup>, June 9<sup>th</sup>, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, July 7<sup>th</sup>
- c) Communication with the zoning steering committee
- Supervisor Thomas: the Planning consultants are open to feedback and input
  - Sustainability Committee/Conservation Advisory Council
    - There is only a chair and is now looking for members
    - This committee will make recommendations to the Town Board based on open space planning and water quality issue, land issue
  - Discussion of what the scope of the zoning steering committee
  - Supervisor Thomas will send Ag committee members the purpose of the sustainability committee and the zoning steering committee
- d) Discussion regarding committee purpose and priorities
- Mr. Chang suggested the approach to this topic should be framed around how to keep focused on specific goals.
  - Discussion ensued regarding how to understand the scope of the other related committees in order to best interact with them.
  - Supervisor Thomas stated that the steering committee is not asking for input at this time, and have committed to ample feedback time for response.
  - Ms. Cail stated that she would prefer to provide input prior to a draft proposal from the zoning steering committee.

- Mr. Chang suggested that given the timeline there would be time for the Ag committee to provide input to the zoning steering committee.
- Mr. Chang summarized the process for next meeting and the way in which the ag committee should move forward:
  - I. Focus for next meeting: ag and protection plan: focus on zoning section and go through it, do we have issues with what is written, proposed update, ensure it's a living document
  - II. Then outreach to farms
  - III. Then set up a meeting with the steering committee

### 3. OLD BUSINESS

#### a) Maps

- General discussion relative to the last meeting regarding the map/data accuracy in ag and farm protection.

RESOLVED that Data presented in the Ag and Farmland Protection Plan page 54., Table App. B-5 Land Use/Land Cover, is inaccurate and misleading, should be corrected, and should not be presented as in future public discussions.

Motion: Mr. Wertis

Second: Ms. Cail

Reynolds AYE  
 Wertis AYE  
 Gates AYE  
 Chang NO  
 Cail AYE

Motion passes 4:1

[This resolution should be sent to the zoning steering committee]

RESOLVED that the “Right to Farm Statement” that appears in the introduction to the A-1 Zoning, should also be used in any other zone where agriculture is a permissible activity.

Motion: Mr. Wertis

Second: Mr. Gates

Reynolds AYE  
 Wertis AYE  
 Gates AYE  
 Chang AYE  
 Cail AYE

Motion passes

[outstanding question: does this need to be sent to any committee or board?]

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RESOLVED The town should declare itself a "Right to Farm" town by erecting appropriate signage at any state road entering the town.

Motion: Mr. Reynolds

Second: Mr. Wertis

Reynolds AYE

Wertis AYE

Gates AYE

Chang AYE

Cail AYE

Motion passes

[this motion should be sent to the Town Board]

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- Discussion about process for resolutions
- Mr. Reynolds will draft a resolution relating to ag preservation priorities and that it should not be based on prime soils.
- Mr. Gates will write resolution about right to farm.
- Mr. Chaw made the request that resolutions and agenda items be sent 5 days before next meeting if at all possible.

#### 4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Ms. Cail referenced several resources on solar leasing. Mr. Wertis asked that these resources be put on the Town's website.
- b) Mr. Wertis announced that the county is sponsoring PDR applications.

#### 5. ADJOURN

Moved: Mr. Chaw

Second: Mr. Wertis

All in favor, meeting adjourned.