

Town of Ulysses Ag Committee

Draft Minutes

July 9, 2016

7:30 pm

Invitees: Chaw Chang, Greg Reynolds, John Wertis, Krys Cail, John Gates, Liz Thomas, Michelle Wright, Monika Roth.

7:30 pm Call to order

7:30-7:35 Roll call

Present: Chaw Chang, Greg Reynolds, John Wertis, Michelle Wright

Excused: Liz Thomas, John Gates and Krys Cail.

7:35-7:40 Announcements

- Mr. Reynolds: heard word of three farm properties sales
 - Discussion regarding how the Ithaca renting issue is creating development pressure from that situation.
 - Discussion on how different areas of agriculture could be treated differently.

7:40-7:45 Approval of draft minutes from last meeting, if available

- *Tabled for next meeting*

Old Business

- a) 7:45-8:15 Review of draft memo to Steering Committee and Consulting firm re: zoning recommendations in Ag Farmland Protection Plan
 - Discussion regarding memo drafted by Mr. Chang and development rights, PDR and TDR

RESOLVED to accept the memo as drafted by Mr. Chang with the friendly amendment

Moved: Mr. Wertis

Second: Mr. Reynolds

Cail ABSENT

Chang AYE

Gates ABSENT

Reynolds AYE

Wertis AYE

Motion passes

b) 8:15-9:00 Review of Steering Committee Minutes

- Mr. Wertis will request further information and clarification of the origin of the priorities in the 4/7/2016 Zoning Steering Committee minutes.
- Committee member who will draft response to each point:
 - 1: Mr. Reynolds
 - 2: Mr. Reynolds
 - 3: Mr. Chang
 - 4 and 5: in general agreement, no assigned
 - 6: Mr. Wertis, review memo
 - 7: Mr. Chang
 - 8: Mr. Wertis
 - 9: Mr. Reynolds
 - 10: --no response--
 - 11: Mr. Wertis
 - 12: --no response--
 - 13: Mr. Reynolds
 - 14: Mr. Wertis
 - 15: Mr. Reynolds
 - 16: Mr. Reynolds
 - 17: Mr. Wertis
 - 18: Mr. Wertis
 - 19: Mr. Chang
 - 20: Mr. Wertis
 - 21: Mr. Reynolds
 - 22: --no response, but Mr. Chang will email Mr. Gates for comment--
 - 23: Mr. Wertis

c) 9:00-9:05 Review of edits to the resolution for Right to Farm Signage

Installation of “Right-to-Farm” Signs

Whereas, on February 26, 2013, the Town of Ulysses adopted an Agriculture and Farmland Protection plan, and

Whereas, Goal 4a of that plan calls for the Town of Ulysses to have a “Right-to-Farm” clause in the Zoning Laws for any zone where agriculture is permitted that will be the same as the “Right-to-Farm” statement that is found as Paragraph 212-23 of the Ulysses Zoning Laws, and

Whereas, the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets through their Division of Agricultural Protection and Development Office have confirmed that the Ulysses Zoning Law Paragraph 212-23 confers on the town “Right-to-Farm” status, and

Whereas, it is the stated experience of the New York State Ag and Markets that the presence of “Right-to-Farm” signage is a good first step in establishing to newcomers and visitors to the community that the town values and supports agriculture and farmland protection, and

Whereas, the Tompkins County Highway Department has indicated a willingness to prepare such signage at no cost to the Town of Ulysses, therefore

The Ulysses Agricultural Committee, by unanimous vote, requests the Town Board to instruct the Town Highway Department to contact the Tompkins County Highway Department and request them to produce four signs, stating, “A Right-to-Farm Community”, of suitable material and size, to be attached below each of the

four “Town of Ulysses” markers found at the north and south boundaries of our town on Rts. 96 and 89.

Moved: Mr. Wertis

Second: Mr. Chang

Cail ABSENT

Chang AYE

Gates ABSENT

Reynolds AYE

Wertis AYE

Motion carries

New business

- a) 9:05-9:20 Discussion of Procedures for dispersing information to the farming and land owner community
 - o Discussion of how best to communicate
 - o Mailing list of farmer and land owners who lease to farmers, direct lines of communications to other farmers, build relationship with regular updates from the committee
- b) The Ag Committee’s role in addressing complaints against farmers
 - o Mr. Chang would like to develop a clear understanding and clarifying position with the process of when citizens approach committee members regarding conflicts.

Motion to adjourn

Moved: Mr. Reynolds

Second: Mr. Wertis

Cail ABSENT

Chang AYE

Gates ABSENT

Reynolds AYE

Wertis AYE

9:38 Adjournment