

Montgomery County Ag & Farmland Protection Board Minutes

October 5, 2017

Call to Order

Chairperson Elma Phillips called the meeting of the Ag & Farmland Protection Board to order at 7:31pm on October 5, 2017. The following were present: Russ Kelly, Martin Kelly, Elma Phillips, Robert Harris, Sandy Frasier, Amanda Bearcroft, Maryellen Driscoll and Walt Kalina (EDR).

Approval of Minutes

The motion to approve the minutes of March 9th meeting was made by Martin Kelly and seconded by Sandy Frasier. The motion passed with no opposition.

Public Comment

None

Old Business

Update on Ag District 2

Ag district 2 is complete. This includes parcels in the towns of Amsterdam, Mohawk and Palatine.

New Business

Draft 2017 Agricultural & Farmland Protection Plan

Walt set up the meeting to see what responses the board had to the draft. Once the board made any changes, it would be put on the website and social media for public review. After public review, Walt would present the plan to the Legislators. The final plan would be sent to the State Ag & Markets once the Legislators adopt it.

Elma had questions about a parcel in the Village of Fort Johnson. The Village of Fort Johnson had restrictions that someone could not have any new animals. Her concern was whether the Village restrictions hindered agriculture with in the town. She also questioned information on pg. 14 & 15 to make sure that it was clear that towns, county and village did not set limitations on the sale of products sold at farm stands. The plan has this statement to what shouldn't be done.

Bob Harris and Sandy Frasier did not find anything that they were concerned about.

Martin Kelly wanted pg. 25 to not emphasize just dairy farms for Sundae on the Farm but to include all kinds of agriculture. Also Martin requested that in the acknowledgements, that we acknowledge all of the Local Farmers in Montgomery County.

Maryellen stated that pg. 11 needed to have the wording changed in the statement "...such as the approximately \$87 million in value of the farm products sold in the County..." to sold from the County. She also wanted the word "debate" on pg. 52 to be changed to concerns.

Amanda stated that on pg. 16, the town of Mohawk now has subdivision regulations. Also need to add a "y" that was cut off on the front cover.

Martin asked to have "Goal 1" dropped and just have "Strategies"

Those were the changes that the board had to the draft. Walt will make the corrections as noted in this meeting to the draft.

Once the changes are made, Amanda will post the draft on the website and social media for public review for 3 weeks and the board will meet again on Nov. 2nd at 7:30 to make any changes necessary to the draft. Amanda will send a copy to the Finance Committee on Nov. 14th because it has to be there 10 days before the public hearing. On the 21st of November, Walt will make a presentation to the Legislators. The public hearing will be on November 28th and the plan will be voted on by the Legislators at that meeting. If the Legislators accept the plan, it would be sent to the State Department of Ag & Markets.

Inclusion in the Ag District 2 & 3

There were two letters from property owners, one in the town of Amsterdam and one in the town of Charleston, requesting to be included in the Ag District.

Bob Harris made a motion to include both parcels in their appropriate ag districts. Russ Kelly seconded the motion. All the members were in favor.

Other Business

Elma wanted to know how to request that the town of Florida pass the Right to Farm. Walt stated that there is a model of the law in the draft.

Motion to adjourn was made by Martin Kelly and seconded by Bob Harris. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30.