

Caroline Agriculture Committee Meeting Minutes of July 27, 2022

The Caroline Agriculture Committee meeting was held in person at the Town Hall

Attendance:

Liaison to Agriculture Committee, Councilmember Katherine Goldberg
Town Councilmember Cal Snow
Agriculture Committee Chair Andrew Dygert
Agriculture Committee member Emily Adams
Agriculture Committee member Don Barber
Agriculture Committee member Pete Hoyt
Agriculture Committee member Hannah Wylie
Community member Anne Dygert
Community member Erica Frenay

Recording Secretary:

Councilmember Katherine Goldberg

Agenda & Discussion

Right To Farm signage - continue to pursue with Highway Superintendent
Determine whether signs can be ordered independently and/or erected by volunteers from Ag Committee; Katherine to follow up with Highway Superintendent & Hannah Wylie regarding particular safety/speed concern
Consider a shorter list of important locations to increase ease of ordering

Cyclyx - Ag plastics recycling; Andrew continues to communicate regarding needs and opportunities in Caroline

Erica - Ag Plan Development

presented documents re. timeline, assessment "Does Your Community Support Agriculture"
discuss what is in grant v. functional timeline
"What are the key elements of a good municipal agricultural protection plan?"
steps remaining finishing budget; aim to finish grant application within next few weeks

Discuss: what to do while grant application is in process
Consider what is "farm v. farmer" friendly: agreement re. supporting solutions which value both
Discuss farmers trying to survive v. open land as a community resource
Explore goal of trying to expand the number of "farmers" in the town of Caroline
Discuss what is a homesteader v. farmer
Brief discussion re. book: The Town That Food Saved, Ben Hewitt

Don - Food System Plan

Reports that there will be community outreach to present the plan
Caroline may be able to have a meeting/event in town; focus on production and processing
Discuss benefits of leveraging work that has already been done
Food plan focuses on resiliency - local food production and processing

Also discuss outreach to encourage zoning commission to identify farmland that would be protected in an overlay district

Committee homework: read other plans
Dryden, Ulysses, Lansing, Ithaca

Consider strategy for residents to be able to implement the plan, discuss means to contact town residents

Respectfully submitted,
Katherine J. Goldberg