

Town of Caroline  
Agriculture Advisory Board  
December 1, 2022  
Caroline Town Hall  
7 - 8:30 pm

Member Attendees: Town Board Liaison Katherine Goldberg, Members Emily Adams (part-time), Erica Frenay, Pete Hoyt, Wil Lawrence, Matt Mix, Hannah Wyllie  
Additional attendees: Jonathan Bates, Monika Roth, Graham Savio. Katherine Seeley, Mark Witmer

The meeting agenda was distributed to the “Caroline Ag” google group by Ms. Frenay and an additional item requested by Ms. Lawrence, in emails on November 27.

### Introductions

The meeting began with all attendees introducing themselves and describing their ag background.

Town Board steering committee appointments

Councilperson Goldberg clarified that the ag committee and the steering committee are a single group of people appointed at their own request by the Town Board. She suggested that people wishing to be on the committee send an email to her

([katherine\\_goldberg@townofcaroline.org](mailto:katherine_goldberg@townofcaroline.org)) with a cc to the Town Clerk ([clerk@townofcaroline.org](mailto:clerk@townofcaroline.org)).

Committee structure and communication

Ms. Frenay agreed to chair the committee, stating her intention to delegate tasks. Ms. Roth agreed to set the

agenda, and other members were asked to bring the snack(s) in January. It was noted that Ms. Frenay is the contact on the Ag & Markets grant application and contract.

Discussion of committee information distribution resulted in the following strategies:

- communication among the steering committee and those who are active in the meeting discussions would continue using carolineag@googlegroups.com, as administered by Ms. Adams. The need for the group to be notified when emails are added to this group was confirmed; Ms. Roth has been added.

- an email group accessed on the Town website for members of the public wishing to receive committee notifications

- Town newsletter articles

- Town website committee postings

Erica agreed to edit a statement about committee participation and communication received in Don Barber's November 28 email (original statement to be distributed with these minutes).

Farmer lists

Ms. Roth led discussion on the need for a definition of agriculture and a delineation of the types of activity to be included in the ag plan. She provided initial farmer lists, based mainly on ag assessments in Caroline and on farmers market participation, for the group to update. Ms. Roth will develop a spreadsheet from the updated lists, and continued updates by committee members are

requested. Discussion produced the following suggestions:

- Define “farmer” as, “people engaged in agricultural activity” “whether or not they are involved in sales of their products.”

- Track those who sell and those who don’t (mainly for homesteaders and gardeners and the smallest farms).

Outreach events for ag community and general public

Ms. Roth recommended two meetings—one to gather basic ag information; the other to showcase the ways in which land can be used for ag activity. In response, committee members encouraged having a single meeting that might cover all the topics and avoid farmer/non-farmer dichotomies, allow for simpler planning, and achieve a higher community participation rate.

The general consensus was to hold an event in mid-March as a potluck.

Tentative questions include:

- what are you doing with your land
- what would you like to do in the future, and
- what are your plans for future use of your land.

The committee seeks information on anyone using land located in the Town, regardless of whether the owner actually lives in the Town. The details of event format, questions, and publicity will need to be finalized at the January meeting.

There was also a brief discussion about the need to reach out to those who own wooded property regarding forest management and the conditions that have resulted from the extended dry weather.

## Plan timeline

Copies of Ms. Roth's first draft of a timeline for the development of the Agricultural Protection Plan were distributed and will be revised.

The group will meet on January 12 at 7 pm in the town hall (second Thursday of the month, to accommodate prior commitments).

Respectfully submitted,

Wil Lawrence

Ad hoc Secretary

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Current recipients of carolineag@googlegroups.com: Emily Adams, Andrew Dygert, Anne Riordan, Brandon Hunt, Bob Tour, Cal Snow, Don Barber, Elissa Palmer, Jonathan Bates, Greg Reynolds, Hayden Stebbins, Hannah Wyllie, Erica Frenay, Katherine Goldberg, Pete Hoyt, Kathie Mix (for Matt Mix), Nancy Munkenback, Caleb Scott, Tony Tavelli, Wil Lawrence, Monika Roth.

From: Don Barber <sunnybrk@gmail.com>

To: Caroline Ag Committee <carolineag@googlegroups.com> Cc: Graham Savio <gs695@cornell.edu>; Monika Roth <mr55@cornell.edu>

Sent: Monday, November 28, 2022, 10:59:33 AM EST Subject: Re: [CarAg] Reminder: Please join us this Thurs 12/1 from 7-8:30pm

Caroline Ag Committee Community Standards Proposal

Overarching Purpose of Committee per Town Board Resolution: Investigate and recommend measures to support local agriculture and food justice issues.

Current Ag Committee Activity: Create and supervise consultants in the development of the Caroline Ag and Farmland Protection Plan

Participation in Ag Committee work: EVERYONE is more than welcome to attend any & all meetings, contribute your thoughts and expertise, and provide feedback to the committee at any time!

Official Ag Committee membership: As part of the Ag and Farmland Protection Plan (AFPP) grant process, the Caroline Town Board is required to appoint an Ag committee. This is done by Board resolution and can be amended as time goes on. We, current Ag Committee attendees, agree that not everyone who is supporting the AFPP work

needs to seek committee appointment. For those considering and then becoming Ag Committee members, we are making a commitment, at this time, to stay with the planning process to completion which entails attending meetings and participating in AFPP activities. This is probably a 2-year commitment. Other than this commitment to ourselves and the AFPP project, the appointed Ag Committee members carry no other special role, The Ag Committee welcomes and seeks input from community members to garner community support for the Ag and Farmland Protection Plan.

Time commitment and expectations moving forward will be a once monthly meeting and engagement in efforts towards the realization of our Ag and Farmland Protection Plan. Certainly, we all have busy lives and numerous other commitments, so there is no expectation of 100% attendance at meetings. That being said, we are at this stage of affirming the role of the Agriculture Committee where we need a core group committed to making this AFPP happen.

We also agree that our communication channels at meetings will be conversation and between meetings will be a google group: [carolineag@googlegroups.com](mailto:carolineag@googlegroups.com) We agree to use these communication channels to share information and ideas about Ag Committee work. These are not venues to share opinions about unrelated and loosely related topics that are not directly part of the Ag Committee's work. These are not venues to share judgmental opinions about anyone or anything. We agree that Katherine Goldberg will be content moderator and sergeant-at-arms and has the authority and responsibility to call out and remove content that doesn't meet these conditions, remind the author of our agreed personal interaction protocol and the purpose of this google group, and if google group abuse is repeated, remove that person for having access to the google group.

To be successful, the AFPP work needs to be a community building process. One that nurtures community awareness and support for farmland and agriculture in Caroline. We commit to support this mission and our colleagues in the development of the AFPP. The hope is that the number of folks participating with the google group and seeking access to information being generated will increase over time. It is our collective intention to use our google group and our hybrid meetings to create safe spaces for all to participate.