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Agriculture Advisory Board

Minutes

November 10, 2015

Attendees: Esta Cohen (Chair), Sam Groce (NCCES); Dr. J. Dykers, Terrill Ellington, Ronnie Vaughn, Tandy Jones, Cathy Jones, Chip Price, Sharon Day, Larry Harris.
Commissioner Walter Petty (BOC liaison)

Absent: Joe Wachs,

Call to Order 7:15pm, Auditorium Ag Building

Old Business:

Approval of Sept 8th minutes

Corrections to Sept minutes:

Remove Justin Brooks from 'absent' designation, he is no longer on the Ag Board

Add "June 9th meeting" to end of "Ronnie Vaughn from 'present'...."

Add date: September 8, 2015

Add "motion at Planning Board meeting" under 2. b.

Minutes from Sept 8th approved with the above changes

New Business:

Formal motion by Chip to add agenda item regarding zoning.

Motion approved, with the understanding that it would be added after the scheduled facilitation, and if there was time prior to the normal 9pm adjournment.

Commissioner Petty explained that the EDC focuses on the retention, recruitment and growth of business within the County. They normally do not include the agricultural sector.

Ideas:

Agritourism

Product marketing

At this point, the running of the meeting was turned over to Sam Groce. The EDC has expressed great interest in working with the Ag Board, and this facilitation was initiated by Sam as a way to focus the Board.

Ground Rules Established For Facilitation

No interruptions

No judgments

No repeats

Respect for the opinions of others

Think outside the box

Sam explained the “Parking Lot” board:

Place for people to list ideas and thoughts for later discussion

Determining the Question:

What do we want to discuss/suggest to the EDC?

Exercise 1: List the ideas for EDC

Exercise 2: Group these ideas into similar topic areas. These areas include:

Policy

Assessment/Education

Agritourism

Marketing/PR

Facility Investments/Processing

Resources

Selected questions from the Ag Board to the EDC:

How does the EDC decide what businesses to recruit?

Does new business recruitment take into account its effects on existing businesses, including agriculture?

What Ag related businesses recruitment efforts are underway (other than poultry processing)?

What does the EDC consider to be Chatham’s most marketable/powerful economic driver?

What does the EDC see as potential growth and demographic changes over the next 20 years?

What could their role be in facilitating/linking growers to have greater impact in markets?

Providing/recruiting for needed facilities

Who does the feasibility study? Who provides the statistics of need?

Facilitation ended at 9:05 pm, and meeting turned back over to Chair.

Motion to adjourn made by Dr. Dykers; immediately withdrawn by same at the request of Chip Price and Ronnie Vaughn.

Motion made by Chip Price requesting that the Ag board vote in favor of supporting the Planning Board’s zoning recommendation to the BOC. As no hard copy of that recommendation was provided, Walter Petty amended the motion by rewording it as, “no zoning west of 87”. Motion as amended was seconded by Ronnie Vaughn. Shortly after discussion began, Dr. Dykers “called the vote”. The Chair stated that some people still wanted to discuss this. Dr. Dykers re-emphasized the he had called for the vote, effectively ending discussion.

Voting for the motion: Dr. Dykers, Chip Price, Terrill Ellington, Ronnie Vaughn, Larry Hicks.

Opposed: Cathy Jones, Sharon Day, Bobby Tucker, Esta Cohen.

Abstaining: Tandy Jones.

Meeting adjourned, 9:20 pm.

