



P. O. Box 1809, Pittsboro, NC 27312-1809 • Phone: (919) 542-8200 •

Agriculture Advisory Board

Minutes

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April 14, 2015

March minutes not available for approval

Attendance: Bobby Tucker, Kathy Jones, Chip Price, Terrill Ellington, Dr Dykers, Joe Watts, Tandy Jones, Sharon Day, Esta Cohen, Sam Groce, and commissioners Hale and Petty.

Absent: Larry Harris, Ronnie Vaughn, Robin Kohanowich, Justin Brooks

Old Business:

EDC dinner- We wish to have a joint meeting with the EDC to share ideas and thoughts about multiple topics. Sam and Dr. Dykers will speak with Diane to organize the discussion.

Planning Board report- Esta reports that no vote has occurred on the RFP (*request for proposal*) for the County land use plan. The planning board requested more time to read the materials presented at the meeting.

Tandy reported that the zoning subcommittee that he is a member of has had two meetings; they are discussing potential County zoning options. Three new members will soon be added to make a total of 8. Public input was heard from 5 county citizens. The committee is considering 4 options (1 – no zoning at all, 2 – conventional zoning like the previously zoned areas, 3 – short term zoning, and 4 – open zoning.) Tandy reports that the whole county does not need to be zoned at one time. More public input will be heard Tuesday at the library.

Much discussion followed.

Dr Dykers said that some farmers were afraid that they wouldn't be able to continue farming and/ or sell their land to the highest bidder if zoned.

Diane Hale said that the ETJs (*extraterritorial jurisdiction*) for Siler City and Pittsboro were extended in 1989 and 2003. She also said that a comprehensive land use plan was already done with lots of public input but that the plan needs a map to be effective. She also stated that the county needs zoning as another leg to the County comprehensive land use plan.

Esta asked Walter Petty what the plan had been to accomplish the goals of the Conceptual Land Use Plan that was previously approved.

Walter Petty supports the open zoning that names the industries that cannot be allowed in the County without due process.

Much more discussion followed.

Tandy will attempt to report the discussion to his subcommittee.

Dr, Dykers wants to invite Mike Resnik to speak to the committee about the origins of property rights.

In summary- as a committee we would like more information about zoning and its effect on agriculture and we would be available to help in the creation of inclusive or exclusive lists of businesses allowed in agricultural areas.

New business

VAD- Joe Wachs and Barry Culberson farms were accepted.

Chatham Parks- Esta reported that at a meeting with K. Atkins and T. D'Alesandro IV, they expressed a desire to use local farmer's markets and the local food movement to enhance marketing of lots in the development. They expressed no interest in farming issues in the county.

Extension update- The new building is expected to open in March 2016. The county extension budget is hoping for two increases. One would increase Phyllis to 83% county cost for salary and the other would increase money for a ¾ time support specialist.

The secretary position for the Agricultural Advisory Board will be rotated between members.

Adjourned, 9pm

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