



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

Agriculture Advisory Board

DRAFT Minutes

Agriculture Advisory Board

June 14, 2016 7:00 PM Ag Building

Called to order, 7:04 pm

Present: Esta Cohen (Chair), Sam Groce (NCCES); Ronnie Vaughn, Dr. J. Dykers, Tandy Jones, Cathy Jones, Sharon Day, Joe Wachs, Bobby Tucker, Thomas “Chip” Price, Terrill Ellington, GUESTS: Joe Fasy and Ellen Beasley

Absent: Joe Wachs, Larry Harris, Walter Petty (BOC liason)

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve by Cathy, with the following changes:

- Change ‘Present’ status of Walter Petty to ‘Absent’.

Seconded by Tandy. Unanimous approval.

Old Business

Review of Farmland Preservation Ordinance. Esta met with County attorney to review draft ordinance.

Revisions discussed, including:

- Changes to ‘any’ crops.
- 10A3—protection of farmer from nuisance law suits from future adjacent property owners. Concerns expressed about the unintended consequences of protection of real estate agents from selling land without notification of adjacent farming activities.

Farmer Hall of Fame – Report from Terrill about potential sponsor, but no further progress reported.

New Business

1. **Voluntary Ag District Applications** – No new applications
2. **Public Meetings for Comprehensive Plan** -
Esta reported on dates/locations of upcoming meetings. Discussion pursued on the allowance of non-farm related activities on ‘bona-fide’ farms in county areas to be zoned, including various agri-tourism activities and wedding events.

- 3. Priority Goals from the Ag Board** – Comprehensive Plan Steering Committees are required to pick top 4-5 priority goals from the 2009 Ag Land Use Plan. The Board agreed that protection of farmland was the main concern for the group, which led to discussion on the available tools for protecting farmlands (e.g., VADs, Farmland Preservation Easements), and a brief discourse on the definition of ‘protection’. The priority goals selected by the Board from the 2009 Ag Land Use Plan included the following:
- i. Explore means to ensure that agriculture has long-term access to water supplies
 - 1. Biggest user typically poultry houses
 - ii. Advocate for Farm- and Forestry-Friendly County Agricultural and Land Development Policies
 - iii. Economic viability of working farms is the best, long-term solution to protecting working farm lands from development or abandonment.
 - 1. Develop an Integrated Marketing System that Expands Opportunity to Direct Market and Wholesale Level Trade
 - iv. Update Subdivision Regulations and Zoning to Meet the Needs of Agriculture and the Community
 - v. Maintain the necessary infrastructure and resources (e.g., County Extension) to support agriculture.
 - vi. Strengthen the Chatham County Voluntary Ag District Program
 - vii. Coordinate Farmland Protection Outreach, Education, and Policy Development
 - 1. Also includes youth/institutional education programs (e.g., FAA)
- 4. By-Laws:** Work in progress by Esta and Ronnie, and a draft version will hopefully be provided prior to the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.