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Agriculture Advisory Board

DRAFT Minutes

Agriculture Advisory Board

December 13, 2022 | 7:00 PM

Chatham Agriculture & Conference Center – Extension Conference Room & Zoom

1. Call to Order

- a. Chair Tenita Solanto called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

- a. Present: Tenita Solanto, Sharon Day, Jeff Vaughan, Chris Hart, Cathy Jones, Amy Fulford, Dave Eskelund, Diana May, Dr. John Dykers Jr.
- b. Absent: None
- c. Others Present: Ginger Cunningham (Cooperative Extension), Brandy Oldham (SWCD)

3. Quorum, Procedure, and Introductions

- a. A quorum was present for this meeting.
- b. The existing board members introduced themselves to our new members. New members introduced themselves as well, including Dr. John Dykers Jr., Diana May, and Dave Eskelund.
- c. Tenita gave an overview of how meetings typically proceed.
- d. October meeting minutes were reviewed prior to this meeting. Amy asked to confirm the time the meeting started so she could update that in minutes. She also attempted to verify who called into the meeting, unfortunately we are unable to see who it was that called in at this time. Sharon motioned to approve the minutes with the intention to update with who called in, if possible. Amy seconded. Motion carried.

4. Farmland Preservation Updates

- a. Ginger gave an overview of the farmland preservation plan status. Sharon would like a way to see who is already on the interview list. Ginger is going to share the link to this Google Doc via email. Board discussion followed and the interview list was reviewed through Zoom.

5. VAD Updates

- a. Brandy presented four applications for the Voluntary Agriculture District. Four applications are eligible for approval. After discussion, John Dykers made a motion to accept the parcels. Cathy Jones seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- b. Brandy also updated the board on VAD outreach. October-December 1,508 invitations were mailed. Will continue outreach.

6. New Business

- a. John Dykers would like the group to make time to discuss water conservation and well water in the county. Sharon gave a quick update from her time on the well subcommittee. Unfortunately, the consensus was that there was not a lot they could do, legally and logistically. They did suggest to planning that they suggest community wells were able, they are better monitored. We need to get another planning board liaison or send a AAB member to the planning board meetings.
- b. Diana asked about a county mission statement and how ag is included in that mission statement. Unaware of one but the county has a comprehensive plan (Plan Chatham) that includes agriculture. Discussion followed.
- c. Ginger mentioned NC Ag Ventures Grant. There were over 200 applications. There is a max of 250. Deadline is 8pm on the 15th unless max is reached. If you are applying, please do so soon.

7. Next Meeting

- a. Next meeting tentatively scheduled for February 14, 2023, at 7 pm via Zoom. Group discussed and decided to move meeting to March 14, 2023, at 7pm instead.

8. Adjournment

- a. John Dykers made a motion to adjourn. Sharon seconded; motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.