



CITY OF FITCHBURG

Planning Department

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MINUTES

Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee
Tuesday, February 17, 2015

Members Present: Becky Baumbach, Roger Cohee, Ed Kinney, Marc Jones, Tom O'Brien, and George Vroman

Staff Present: Wade Thompson – Resource/Project Planner

1. Call to Order and Approval of Minutes

Chair Ed Kinney called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

Motion by Marc Jones, second by Tom O'Brien, to approve the minutes of January 6, 2015, carried unanimously.

2. Public Appearances – Non-agenda items

None.

3. Ordinance No. 2015-0-01, An Ordinance Amending Section 22-6(e)(1) Relative to Wind Turbines in A-X Zoning, Section 22-481(c)(2) Relative to A-X Rezoning Reporting and Section 22-482(4) Relative to Limited Vocational Activities of Chapter 22, Zoning Ordinance

Wade Thompson introduced the Ordinance, and stated that it reflected proposed changes to the City's Zoning Ordinance, as uncovered during the recent re-certification of the City's Farmland Preservation Zoning Ordinance by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection. Thompson stated that the proposed changes were technical and non-substantive.

The Committee discussed the Ordinance and the proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance.

Motion by Jones, second by Roger Cohee, to recommend approval of the Ordinance to the Plan Commission, carried unanimously.

4. Discussion on Agriculture-Related Conditional Uses in Agriculture Zoning Districts

The Committee discussed the issue of agriculture-related uses in agriculture zoning districts, and Fitchburg Farms.

The Committee agreed that retail of “value-added” agricultural products, in which the products come directly from an agricultural practice, are a use that could be accommodated in the City’s agricultural zoning districts. The Committee also agreed that this issue deserves further study.

The Committee agreed that Fitchburg Farms is a land use that they would like to continue to accommodate in the City. The Committee also recognized that the type of retail use that Fitchburg Farms represents needs to be controlled and placed appropriately in the City’s agricultural districts.

(Items 4 and 5, as identified on the agenda, were flipped in order.)

5. City of Fitchburg Comprehensive Agriculture Plan Work Session

The Committee discussed the overall vision and development process of the draft plan. The Committee agreed it would be beneficial to have a brainstorm session at the next Committee meeting, to begin to develop an overall “agricultural vision” for the City, as well as agricultural issues.

Chair Kinney requested that Thompson come to the next Committee meeting with a list of agricultural land use “types”.

6. Staff Report

Thompson announced he has introduced the Fitchburg Agriculture Route (FAR) Study to University of Wisconsin Department of Urban and Regional Planning (URPL) Department graduate students, and that they will be working on the study over the next nine months or so.

7. Announcements.

a. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting was scheduled for March 24, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Cohee, second by O’Brien, to adjourn at 5:35 p.m., carried unanimously.

Submitted by: Wade Thompson, Resource/Project Planner

Approved: March 24, 2015