

STERLING AGRICULTURE COMMISSION
MONTHLY MEETING
Tuesday, January 28th, 2014 at 7:30pm
Buttercup Farm

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February. 11th 2014

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Meeting was called to order at 7:11 PM

II. ROLL CALL/INTRODUCTIONS:

- Chair - Andrew Meek – Present
- Vice Chair – Amy Kemp - Present
- Regular - Betsy Molodich - Present
- Regular - Robin Cousens - Present
- Regular - Verna Cole - Present
- Alternate - Megan Johnson – Present
- Alternate – Howard Hopps – Present
- Audience of Citizens:
 - Ashley Hermonot
 - Katie Hermonot
 - Becky Hopps

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Commission's minutes from October were approved unanimously.

V. UNFINISHED/CONTINUING BUSINESS

- Betsy shared a copy of the drafted agriculture section of the POCD, written in 2011.
- The importance of the POCD, and improving agriculture's representation in it was informally reaffirmed by all members of the committee. As a first step towards having the ag section added to the POCD a letter to the Chair of the Planning and Zoning Commission will be drafted. It will raise 3 primary concerns of the agriculture commission:
 - That the agriculture section was not included in the latest revision of the POCD.
 - The difference in nature between the recently passed Right to Farm Ordinance and the proposed agriculture section of the POCD. Namely that the RTF ordinance only provides a final legal defense for acceptable farming practices, whereas the POCD lays out the importance of, and plans for developing, agriculture in Sterling.
 - That the Agriculture Commission would like to consult with the Planning and Zoning Commission on zoning codes that would affect agriculture in Sterling.

- A visit from Elizabeth Moore of the CT Farmland Trust will be arranged for a future meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- A motion was made by Amy and seconded by Megan to create a new seat on the commission reserved for an FFA student. It was approved unanimously.
- Changes to the Agriculture Commission's meeting schedule were discussed. It was proposed that we meet at 6:30PM November thru March and 7:30PM April thru October.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- Howard made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Amy and approved unanimously at 8:06 PM.