Meeting Minutes

Forest County Land & Water Resources

Farmland Preservation Plan Public Hearing

Tuesday December 22nd 5:00 pm

1. The call to order was given by Chairman Paul Millan at 5:05p.m. In room 107 of the Forest County Courthouse. The Roll was called; members present were Chairman Paul Millan, Committee members Lance Laabs, Larry Sommer, Dave Bula, and Larry Berg. Administrator Pam LaBine and Technician Bill Lester were also present along with Senior Planner Coleman Peiffer with North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. Members of the public included; Tannis Bocek, Gary Bocek, Janet Dyckowski, and John Harter.
2. Motion by Larry Sommer to approve Agenda. Second by Lance Laabs. All in favor. Motion approved.
3. Confirmed compliance with Open Meetings & Public Hearing requirements. Both Mailing Affidavits were presented to the committee.
4. Committee informed the public they will be allotted 3 minutes per speaker and extra time will be allowed for further issues/discussion if needed.
5. Motion by Lance Laabs to open the public hearing. Second by Larry Sommer. All in favor. Motion approved. Public hearing open at 5:08.
6. Everyone in Attendance has read the ordinance. Pam LaBine did read the attached Resolution.
7. Staff report. Pam LaBine stated that the resolution read was just a basic template and will be adjusted by corporate council to fit our needs. She also stressed that the board should attempt to incorporate and fix the issues in the two letters we received from Bud Ison and Gerald Meadow that will be read at a later time. They are mostly mapping issues.
8. Statements from the floor.
   * Tannis Bocek was wondering if you fall into the presumed “Farmland Preservation area” do you have to sign up for these credits? Coleman Peiffer then stated that you do not automatically. The mapped farmland preservation areas mean that you are qualified for the tax credits, and you must then sign up for the program.
     + Dave Bula then asked Coleman Peiffer if you are allowed to pick and choose which plots of land can be entered into the farmland preservation program, and also if you can switch land uses during while in the program. Coleman stated, “You’re allowed to pick and choose which parts of your property fall into Farmland Preservation and as long as your property is being used and fits into the criteria we created for this plan then you may change the use anytime.”
9. Pam LaBine then read the correspondence received from Bud Ison and Gerald Meadow.
   * Bud Ison was concerned that too much of his land would fall into this Farmland Preservation area and he would not be able to keep some of it residential. But it was cleared it up that the landowner is able to choose what he wants to put into Farmland Preservation.
   * Gerald Meadow was concerned because his farm did not fall into Farmland on the map. It was clarified that this is because the maps are also based on the Towns future land use maps. So Gerald would need a Comprehensive plan land use change through the Town of Freedom to incorporate his farm as Farmland Preservation.
10. No further Comments
11. Motion by Larry Sommer to close public hearing. Second by Lance Laabs. All in favor. Motion Approved.
12. Motion by Dave Bula to adjourn meeting at 5:25. Second by Larry Sommer. All in favor. Meeting Adjourned.

Submitted by Bill Lester