

June 25, 2018

Town of Ossian Agricultural Advisory Committee Minutes June 25, 2018 7:00-7:56 PM

Attendance: Sheila Hess, Bob Bourgoine, Holly Smalt, Tom DePuy, Keith Goins, David Mark, Melissa Mark, Mary Ann Scharmberg, John VanHuesen, Dana Henry

Discussion of possible updates to the Town of Ossian website. Postings such as exemptions, possibly assessor could have their own website and the Committee's site could link to the assessor's site. Taxes, assessments and exemptions to be put up on the website. Posting PowerPoint presentations regarding agricultural exemptions could be posted. Holly Smalt outlined the assessor's schedule. She said she has been considering having a separate website for the assessor and can fit time into her schedule to update the Ossian Assessor's webpage. John Van Heusen will collaborate with Holly with suggestions of updates.

David Mark reported on the news regarding an approved grant to renew and update our zoning laws. This 2-year \$20K grant is to be used to update only the agricultural zoning laws. The town wants to update all the zoning laws Budget begins at the end of August and money will need to be earmarked to take care of the non-agricultural zoning plan updates. Angela Ellis, from Livingston County Planning Board is working with the town to construct the engineering outline to put out to bid in August. The planners would review and help write the codes. They would help look through the existing codes and simplify the codes, including legal review. A separate zoning committee will look at the plans, request modifications as necessary and send the approved plan out for bid. The process for updating zoning will follow normal proceedings. Definitions will be clarified, especially those regarding farming, and laws will be updated to be user friendly and align with the town's vision.

Mary Ann spoke with Bob Bourgoine who suggested that since zoning is potentially being updated, perhaps it is not the best time to update the website with existing zoning laws. Notification to the public about the upcoming review of the zoning laws and the public review process will be posted on the website. At this point, building codes are not on the website. Bob goes through the application with people seeking building permits and he can copy them then.

Mary Ann Scharmberg will take pictures of vegetable stands such as Clymos, Schramms, Carters, DeBardinas and somebody on McNinch and add them to the website. This aligns with the The Town of Ossian Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan, section 4.4 Existing Zoning, Farm Friendly considerations.

Sheila Hess urged the committee to continue having action plans and to post progress toward the objectives of plan implementation.

The next meeting is Tuesday, October 23, 2018 7 pm.

Meeting adjourned 7:56 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Henry, secretary, pro temp