

Ag and Open Space Committee Meeting
April 26, 2010

Present:

Mary Ann Johnson, Co-chair

Larry Thetford, Co-chair

Richie Biezynski

Lindsey Lusher Shute

Bill O'Neill, Town Board Liaison

KayCee Wimbish, Secretary

A. Old Business

1. Review March 29, 2010 Minutes and Approve

Minutes cannot be approved due to lack of a quorum.

2. Survey Results and Comments

23 surveys have been completed and returned. Approximately 185 were delivered or mailed.

16 people indicated that they would like to meet.

A member from the Town Board, the planner, and two members from AGOS committee will meet with the Rossi's.

We will attempt to meet with the Rossis next Monday, May 3 at 7 pm. Larry will set it up.

Bill will call Terry Zitz to come in on Friday, May 7 at 9 am, Karpinskis will meet at 10 am.

3. Local Farmer Roundtable Discussions- Lindsey

The committee discussed what role the AGOS committee will play.

Larry and Lindsey will develop a survey to determine if it is economically viable to develop farming infrastructure to be used by local farmers. Farmers would like to use the town website to get information out. Bill will find out if farms can be listed, not an advertisement, but information spreading.

The next 5 meetings will be farm tours.

4. Harrison Fire Relief Funds and Events

Information is going out through the website Red Hook Concerns.

Fundraising Event is possibly at May 16th at the Fire House.

There are two funds: One being run by 4H, reaching out to 4H and ag community. The other fund is through St. John's, and they are reaching out to the rest of the community.

B. New Business

1. Grant Opportunities- Mary Ann

There are two USDA grants funding renewable energies.

Most money is in loan guaranties, second amount of money is for loans and grants

The other grant is for value-added products. It gives you marketing money, money for staff, grower's groups, co-ops.

Mary Ann will send around the information.

2. Town Webpage Link to Farming - Mary Ann

See above

3. Candidates fro AGOS Committee

Richie said that Jim Stages sent a letter to the town inquiring about being on the committee.

Derrick Mead was approached and asked to submit a letter of interest.

C. Date and Time of next Meeting

May 24 at 7 PM