

Town of Lima - Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Report – December 6, 2023 - 6 PM

PRESENT: Chairman, Mike Neenan, Ed Blodgett, Jr., Lee DeKramer, Ron Gruschow, Marc Krieger, John Lehning, Tom Simpson, Ted Zornow

GUESTS: Bill Carey, Town Board Liaison, Mark Petroski, Town Councilmember, Ron Blodgett, Town Councilmember-Elect, Steve Werner, Town Councilmember-Elect, Marty Gardner, Cathy Gardner, Volunteer Secretary

Mike Neenan called the meeting to order at 6PM and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by committee member introductions.

Copies of the Agricultural Advisory Committee chapter from Lima Town Code were distributed and the committee purpose and powers and duties were reviewed.

Mike stated that the committee has not received any referrals for review in 2023. He spoke with Charlie Floeser, Building Officer and reviewed the process for referral of Agricultural Data Statements. Charlie will forward all future Ag Data Statements.

Mike asked for member comments concerning drainage ditch conditions.

Ron Gruschow noted that some ditches are too close to the road to provide safe turning and access for traffic passing slower moving tractors. As an example, he cited the turn area from Rt's 5&20 on to Clay St- with minimal shoulder, it is difficult to avoid squashing the ditch while making the turn with large equipment. He suggested that a review be undertaken to identify locations where ditches need to be dug out for maintenance and for relocation further from the road centerline to provide more shoulder width and improve safety.

Marc Krieger expressed concern regarding the location of recently installed Spectrum poles on Dalton Road approaching Egan Road from the north. Located just 2-3 feet off the paved road edge, they impede access for large vehicles. One pole was installed right near the driveway to Brisbane's Farm and impedes driveway access. While no wires have been put up yet, the location of the poles is of concern and Marc recommends that review of future requests for above ground utility pole and equipment installations include site assessments to ensure that locations are approved with due consideration for access and traffic safety.

Mike opened the floor for discussion of any matters intersecting the town and agriculture. He distributed copies of Supervisor Falk's October 2023 letter regarding water test findings and a deadline for petition signatures, a map depicting the outcome of the water district 5 petition effort, and maps with three alternate options for water district(s) formation.

Town Councilmember-elect Steve Werner distributed a factual report of the actual water test results and summarized a review of the results that he undertook with the Livingston County Health Department after hearing concerns from residents about the findings described in the letter.

Following discussion concerning the variance between the actual water sample results and some claims made in the supervisor's letter and of ways the town could help residents by offering educational assistance, there was concurrence on a recommendation that the town send another letter to the same recipients with the actual well test results and resources to contact for information regarding private water system maintenance and private water testing. Councilmember Mark Petroski stated that he would be happy to work with Steve on a letter for this purpose.

The outcome of the petition for proposed water district 5 was stated and discussed, as well as the previous day's vote by the town board to move forward and spend up to \$10,000 on a new map, plan, and report for an as yet undecided alternate water district formation.

Ron Gruschow suggested that money planned for another map, plan and report be used instead to conduct more water tests in other areas of the town in order to have more factual data points to inform both residents and town discussions regarding need for public water.

Mark Petroski mentioned that the Livingston County Water and Sewer Authority is trying to undertake a large public water project across many towns and villages.

In closing, Mike expressed appreciation to retiring member Ted Zornow for his years of service with the committee and for his support of agriculture in Lima.

Adjourned at 8:15 PM

Report approved by Agriculture Advisory Committee, Submitted by Cathy Gardner, Secretary