

**STAFFORD COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL AND PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT
RIGHTS COMMITTEE MINUTES
FEBRUARY 24, 2014**

The meeting of the Stafford County Agricultural and Purchase of Development Rights Committee for Monday, February 24^h, 2014, was called to order 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Jeff Adams in the County Administration Conference Room of the George L. Gordon, Jr. Government Center.

Members Present: Jeff Adams, Gail Clark, Robert Hunt, Marty McClevey

Members Absent: Craig DeBenard, John Howe

Staff Present: Kathy Baker, John Harbin, Sylvia Dyson

Guests Present: Virginia Adams, Ryan Gish

1. Call to Order

Mr. Jeff Adams called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked Mrs. Dyson to read the roll.

2. Approval of Minutes – January 27, 2014

Mr. McClevey made a motion to approve. Ms. Clark seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

3. Staff Update

The Chairman asked Ms. Baker and Mr. Harbin for a staff update. Ms. Baker stated that they didn't really have a staff update at this point. She did however mention that the budget was getting ready to be presented to the Board of Supervisors in March which is when staff would be able to give some more information to the Committee.

4. New Business

➤ **North Stafford Farmers Market**

Mr. Harbin stated that Ms. Griffin had submitted the Farmers Market Rules as well as the vendor application.

*AGRICULTURAL/PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT
RIGHTS COMMITTEE MINUTES
FEBRUARY 24, 2014*

Ms. Clark felt that the Committee didn't have the prerogative to make any changes to Ms. Griffin's rules. She stated that the Committee had to only make sure that Ms. Griffin's rules were not in violation with the Committee's rules. She did however express that she was concerned for the vendors regarding time and date changes in particular which were allowable according to Ms. Griffin's rules.

Mr. Adams stated that he had some concerns regarding the market manager being able to change section 3a, 3b, 4a and 6d of the market rules as stated under section 1c. Ms. Baker explained that the market manager would not be able to make any changes that would violate the County Ordinance since the County Ordinance superseded any of the market rules. Mr. Harbin added that if the market manager was to change the rules she would have to come back before the PDR Committee for approval.

Mr. Adams pointed out that last season at least two rules had been changed which were not brought in front of the Committee including the "no dog rule" and the market hours. Mr. Adams was particularly concerned with the changing hours which could interfere with the participation in other markets. Ms. Baker stated that the Zoning Ordinance did not regulate any hours of operation for business unless there were impacts for neighbors such as noise.

Mr. Adams inquired regarding section 5k whether the market manager had towing authority when cars were parked in a vendor's space. Mr. McClevey stated that he believed that the hospital had jurisdiction over parking policies and that the market manager would have to be authorized by the hospital.

Mr. Adams closed the discussion by stating that he wanted to make sure that section 1c could not superseded the Ordinance. Mr. Hunt suggested adding a clarification to section 1c "...after review and approval by the Ag/PDR Commission and in agreement with the existing Ordinances".

Ms. Baker stated that the Committee could approve the rules subject to the requested change being made by the market manager.

Ms. Clark made a motion to approve the North Stafford Farmers Market Rules and Regulations with the addition to section 1c : "...after review and approval by the Ag/PDR Commission and in agreement with the existing Ordinances". Mr. Hunt seconded. The motion passed 4-0.

*AGRICULTURAL/PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT
RIGHTS COMMITTEE MINUTES
FEBRUARY 24, 2014*

5. Unfinished Business

➤ **Farmers Markets – Review of Process and Regulations**

Mr. Harbin explained that he made some draft edits to the regulations established by the Committee last year based on Ms. Griffin's feedback. The purpose of the edit was to clear up the producer-only requirement and to give Ms. Griffin the ability to sell certain merchandise to make some money for the market. Mr. Adams pointed out that Ms. Griffin had already been given permission to sell water and bags the previous year. Mr. Harbin stated that he added a new clause stating: "any exception to the producer only requirement must be approved by the Agricultural/PDR Committee" to the Regulations. He further stated that he took a lot of the language from the Spotsylvania Regulations. Mr. Harbin asked the Committee if they had any further suggestion.

Mr. McClevey handed out an addendum to the Ordinance he had been working on to further define the meaning of "producer-only" and to give some guidelines for non-produce products as well as hot or cold food vendors and non-profit organizations. Ms. Clark expressed that she was pleased with the addendum and asked if it could be added to the Ordinance. Mr. Harbin stated that it could only be added to the Regulations, not the Ordinance. There was a discussion regarding the content of the addendum. Ms. Baker asked if the Committee wanted to consider having a set percentage for non-produce. Mr. Hunt stated that the document provided by Mr. McClevey was very specific and gave Ms. Griffin authority to operate, however he did not like the idea of allowing any type of non-profits in the market. Mr. Adams agreed that he did not like fundraising at the market, however if they provided a services rather than selling a product he would be okay with it. Ms. Clark agreed that customers might spend part of their money on fundraisers which would take away from the vendors.

Mr. Adams initiated another discussion regarding hot food vendors selling canned drinks with their meals. Mr. McClevey pointed out that people enrolled in the SNAP program could not use their food stamps to purchase anything from the hot food vendors.

The Committee did agree that the items sold at the market must have value added to it by the vendor by processing the product before selling. Mr. McClevey stated that he did not expect the Committee to finalize the addendum this meeting and suggested that the members look over the suggestions and revisit the issue next meeting.

Ms. Adams asked to speak. She stated that as a producer and a participant in the market she

**AGRICULTURAL/PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT
RIGHTS COMMITTEE MINUTES
FEBRUARY 24, 2014**

did not agree with having non-profits at the market since she was losing money because of that. She further stated that she felt the clarifications provided by Mr. McClevey would be a great help to determine who gets to sell at the market. She also suggested that canned soft drinks should only be sold in conjunction with a meal deal and not as a separate item.

➤ **PDR Dedication Ceremonies and Signage**

Mr. Adams presented signage that he had received to give the Committee an idea of what the signage could look like.

Mr. Harbin stated that he had been in touch with Heartland Signs. He stated that he was not able to get a proof in time, but he would send it out to everybody as soon as he received it.

Mr. Adams pointed out that some properties required more than one sign due to the location.

Mr. McClevey suggested purchasing Carsonite fiberglass posts with labels saying "County Easement. Contact Planning Office for Information. Do not disturb" to designate the easement.

Mr. Adams asked if there were any plans to do a dedication ceremony for the Shelton and Holsinger property. Ms. Baker stated that there was not a lot of participation at the onsite ceremony for the Silver property and that it was certainly possible to present a plaque to the other two property owners at the Board of Supervisors meeting. The committee agreed that that would be the appropriate way to do it. Mr. Harbin stated he would get the signs and plaques made.

➤ **Stafford County 350th Celebration - Potential Activities**

Mr. Adams stated that the Committee could pretty much rule out the 4-H livestock participation. Ms. Clark stated that she and Mr. McClevey had been emailing Sue Henderson and Mr. Carr and that they would be having a meeting with Ms. Henderson the following day. Ms. Clark reminded that there was a parade on May 3rd as well as a Celebration Stage on Wednesday, June 25th. According to Ms. Clark Ms. Henderson did not feel as strongly about parade participation as she did about a June 25th participation. Ms. Clark suggested having a static display on June 25th. Ms. Clark and Mr. McClevey suggested having one or two pop ups (10x10 or 12x12). She further stated that if the Committee wanted to, they could bring in tractors and animals. She suggested having smaller animals like sheep, goats and feeder pigs, chickens and maybe a few 16 foot hog panels. She also stated that she personally did not care to handle

*AGRICULTURAL/PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT
RIGHTS COMMITTEE MINUTES
FEBRUARY 24, 2014*

the live animals, but she would be okay if the other members wanted to bring some. She further suggested having the four Century Farms on stand up easels (Cedar Hill Farms, Glebe Farm, Glencairne, Silver Ridge). She stated that the Stafford County Farm Bureau contributed \$250 for the event and was willing to give some more funds if needed. She also suggested having a banner, a display of old agricultural pictures in the County as well as current and possibly old implements like hand tools and sorts as part of an interactive display. Ms. Clark stated that a lot of the items for the Celebration Stage could be retrieved from people in the Farm Bureau network which she was permitted to do. Mr. McClevey stated that he and Ms. Clark would know more after talking to Ms. Henderson.

Mr. McClevey also suggested having digital photo frames to show pictures of farming in Stafford, old and new, wineries, beekeepers, backyard chicken, etc. He further stated that he hadn't really pushed 4-H with Alyssa Walden but he would contact her after the meeting the next day. Ms. Clark pointed out that the livestock kids would be available for the June 25th event.

Mr. Adams suggested discussing the event further once Mr. McClevey and Ms. Clark have met with Ms. Henderson.

Ms. Clark stated that the June 25th event would be held at Pratt Park close to the river. Ms. Baker explained that they were building a permanent stage on the hill side. Ms. Clark stated that there would be a number of different acts the day of the celebration, but she was not sure what the display portion would look like.

Mr. Harbin stated that he didn't think Ms. Henderson was really involved with the founders day parade and therefore may not be as familiar with the event which might be why she is pushing towards the Celebration Stage.

Mr. McClevey added that the deadline for submitting for the parade was March 1st.

Ms. Baker suggested contacting Shannon Howell if the Committee was interested in also putting pictures on the Facebook page.

Ms. Clark stated that Mr. Carr did not mention anything about having insurance for the event, but if they needed one she would probably be able to work with the Bureau on that.

After the discussion was closed Mr. Hunt had to leave due to a previous engagement.

*AGRICULTURAL/PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT
RIGHTS COMMITTEE MINUTES
FEBRUARY 24, 2014*

➤ **2014 Work Plan**

Mr. Harbin stated that he typed up a work plan based on what was discussed at the last meeting and handed it out to the Committee.

Mr. Adams stated that in Spotsylvania the schools had a field day for 3rd and 4th graders at Oakley Farm. Ms. Clark explained that Extension initiated the field day for 4th graders and pointed out that Stafford was a member of as well.

Mr. Adams stated that Fauquier County did a Farm Day as well. He stated that he would like to see similar things in Stafford County.

Ms. Clark stated that there was unequal Soil and Water and Agriculture Extension presence in Stafford County compared to other counties. Ms. Baker stated that Stafford County still had the support of both of them. Ms. Clark was concerned that due to them being so far away Stafford would not receive equal service as Spotsylvania.

Mr. Adams stated that he would like to see Farm Tours and similar activities in Stafford County. Ms. Baker suggested contacting other Counties to find out what was required.

Ms. Clark inquired about the Chesapeake Bay timeline. Mr. Harbin stated that he had not heard back from anybody regarding the implementation plan.

Mr. Adams asked if Mr. Harbin had heard anything back regarding moving soil water conservation districts from DCR to DEQ's jurisdiction. Mr. Harbin stated he did not hear anything and that he would look into it.

Mr. McClevey requested that looking at target areas for the PDR should be added under number 2 of the work plan.

Mr. Adams inquired about the missing representative of the committee. Ms. Baker stated that one was appointed by Laura Sellers but the contact information had not been forwarded to staff. Ms. Baker stated that she would get the contact information.

*AGRICULTURAL/PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT
RIGHTS COMMITTEE MINUTES
FEBRUARY 24, 2014*

6. Next Meeting

- March 24th, 2014 Regular Meeting

7. Adjournment

Mr. McClevey made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Ms. Clark. The motion passed 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.