

DRAFT
Town of White Creek
Comprehensive Plan and Ag Protection Plan
Steering Committee/Agricultural Focus Group Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2009

Attendees: Ed Gulley, Rody Walker, Jim Perry, Peter Hetko, Don Sweet, Darryl Caputo , Sarah Ashton

Absent: Tim Smith, Rupert Jennings, Bill Badgeley , J. Tudor, Rich Moses, Carol Moore,

Minutes: Minutes of the February meeting were reviewed and approved: motion by Walker, seconded by Perry. The goals of the March meeting were reviewed including reviewing and finalizing the draft of the Agricultural Vision Statement, defining the term 'agriculture' and developing criteria to prioritize farmland. Nan brought handouts for all these items.

With regard to defining agriculture, Walker noted that agriculture was operating land in a prosperous way to the benefit of the community and environment. Preserving the greenness and rural character of the community. Group members started sharing types of farming--Tilling land, farming vegetables, apples, fruit, crops, tillable land. Pasture, tree farms and logging them are farms. Farms need to be sustainable and profitable to survive.

Town of White Creek Vision Statement and Agricultural Vision Statement—see attached

The purpose of the meeting was to present the White Creek Vision Statement, Agricultural Vision Statement and Definition of agriculture to the agricultural community. Consultant Nan presented and reviewed the draft Vision Statement for the Town of White Creek with meeting attendees. The statement grew out of the well attended, participatory public meeting held in January—and vision statements developed by residents. Three main comments were made: (1) a resident did not want to be locked into retaining farmland as farm land but wanted the flexibility to build a house. (2) Questions were raised about what the term 'old-fashioned values' meant. Nan explained that at the public hearing people had suggested that the term meant: community, respect for one another, safety, knowing your neighbor. Participants commented that old fashioned values don't coincide with today's world. (3) There is a need to cut down on government. There is too much money spent on things that don't come back to farms themselves.

Nan presented the Draft Agricultural Vision Statement and the Definition of Agriculture. In general people seemed to be in agreement Attendees again wanted to make sure that there was flexibility to build a house on farmland if desired and not be locked into farming.

Strategies to Implement Agricultural Vision Statement

Attendees then brainstormed ideas or strategies to realize the Agricultural Vision. Ideas generated included:

- Reintroducing agricultural classes into the school.
- Producing welcome packets for new people providing information about agricultural life in the community

- Establishing a committee to keep up on and share information about trends in agriculture and agri-business.
- Include an appendix in the plan listing agri-businesses
- Use snow mobile trails to ride horses
- Use services available like Cornell Cooperative Extension

Next Meeting Weds. May 20th 7:30PM Town of White Creek, 28 Mountain View Drive to develop the criteria for prioritizing farmland.