

**FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN COMMITTEE
MARCH 22, 2016 – 12:30 P.M.
AMNICON TOWN HALL
8985 US-2, SOUTH RANGE, WISCONSIN**

Meeting called to order by Chair Dave Dumke at 12:35pm.

Present – Jane Anklam, Dave Dumke, Amy Eliot, Charlie Glazman, Gary Haughn, Gary Kane, Debbi King, Mark Liebaert, Larry Luostari, Sue O’Halloran, Christine Ostern, Steve Rannenberg. Absent – Nathan Johnstad, Jim Streveler, Jon TePoel, Robert Wicklund. Excused – Terry White. Others Present – Miina Helske.

Motion by Larry Luostari, second by Gary Haughn, to approve the minutes from the March 1, 2016 meeting. Motion passed.

A review of last meeting was given by Amy Eliot. Discussion. Mark Liebaert reported that he gave a brief update about the committee’s work at the last Town’s Association meeting specifically letting the towns know that they will be contacted for their decisions about how to handle situations where future land-use maps conflict with the farmland preservation base map.

Prime farmland, current zoning, current agriculture and future land-use maps were viewed and discussed at length. Specific situations and areas were viewed as examples in order to inform the committee about how to proceed in adding or changing layers for a farmland preservation base map. Motion by Mark Liebaert, second by Charlie Glazman, to add the “prime farmland” (dark green) and “farmland of state-wide importance” (dark brown) to the farmland preservation base map. Motion passed. Committee agreed to start and keep a list of recommendations for future action by other groups pertaining to county ordinances, county policies, etc. Motion by Debbi King, second by Gary Kane, to make future recommendation to the Zoning Committee to develop a new exclusive agricultural zoning district with 35 acre minimum lot sizes only in the “prime farmland” (dark green) areas of the farmland preservation map. Motion passed. Committee shifted focus to discuss how to best capture agricultural areas on farmland preservation base map by discussing current agricultural land-use and current agricultural zoning as compared to town future land-use designations. Committee agreed to remove A-1 agricultural zoned land that does not have current agricultural land-use and does not have adjacent agricultural land-use or zoning from the farmland preservation base map. Staff will try to capture these ideas on next iteration of draft farmland preservation base map for further review and discussion at next meeting. Committee agreed to make recommendation to towns that when there is a conflict with non-agricultural future land-use and “prime farmland” (dark green) that the future land-use should be changed to farmland preservation in the comprehensive land-use plan.

Committee reviewed and discussed loss of farmland statistics to identify trends. More discussion planned for next meeting.

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 12, 2016, 12:30 pm, at the Amnicon Town Hall

Motion by Larry Luostari, second by Mark Liebaert to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:35pm.

Submitted by,
Christine Ostern, County Conservationist