



**ACME TOWNSHIP
FARMLAND & OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, March 18, 2010, 3:00 p.m.
Acme Township Hall
6042 Acme Road, Williamsburg MI 49690**

Meeting called to Order at 3:03 p.m.

Members present: B. Carstens, G. LaPointe
Members excused: B. Garvey (Chair)
Staff present: S. Vreeland, Township Manager
N. Edwardson, Recording Secretary
Also present: B. Bourdages, Farmland Preservation
R. Challender, K. Engle, Denny Hoxsie, Dave Hoxsie, D. White

1. **Limited Public Comment:** None
2. **Approval of Minutes from March 2 and 11, 2010 meeting:**
Motion by LaPointe. Seconded by Carstens to approve the meeting minutes from March 2 and 11, 2010. Motion carried unanimously.
3. **Correspondence:** None
4. **New Business:**
The township was granted permission to make photo copies of Chapter 18 in a publication titled "Rural by Design" by Randall Arendt, by the American Planning Association. Copies were handed out to advisory members and the farmers in attendance. Carstens commented that he had received a copy from County Planner, John Sych, and thought it would be useful. Bourdages said when he worked with the Leelanau Conservancy, Randell Arendt, did some educational work with the Villages of Northport and Empire. He said Arendt's area of expertise is in conservation design.
5. **Old Business:**
 - a. **Open forum discussion: how Acme Township's Zoning Ordinance can be revised to be more agricultural and agribusiness-friendly**
Vreeland reviewed an **email** exchange with Bourdages regarding drafting a memo to PC about the ideas, recommendations and concerns that have been addressed in the past several meetings of the Farmland Advisory committee. Vreeland would like to have a draft for discussion at the PC meeting on April 26th.
Bourdages expressed the idea with all the program structures in place for PDR in other areas, and with rising recognition of agriculture to the state's economy, we might be able to purse some funding to procure the services of the Land Policy Institute at MSU or the Planning and Zoning Center or other professionals to help develop the ordinance. He will do some preliminary investigation of the technical assistance that may be available.

Our discussion on Acme's agricultural zoning ordinance continued.

Issues raised:

- Air Drainage: need to maintain is referred to under site plan review; look at whether we need to enhance language, specifically review air drainage for A-1 district LUPs and perhaps even require permit for fences or require openwork fences rather than solid. Air drainage easements?
- Value added ag-production: People should be able to produce value added products on their properties. Perhaps they should be able to sell some of it on-site as well as wholesaling it. At what point does this generate too much traffic to be compatible with ag production activities?
- Create farm product processing facility zone(s) On major thoroughfares?
- Any retail? Should you have to live on the retail site?
- We need better definitions of food processing, and at what scale what level of permit is required. Does it depend on whether you are processing your own crops, or someone else's? What percentage? Should the rules be protectionist?
- Website & other public education – Consider as part of federal grant for promotion/public education
- Courtesy rules
 - Trespass and pilfering
 - Slow moving vehicle signage
 - Lights at night
 - Consideration for farm equipment in transit

The next scheduled meeting is Thursday, March 25, 2010, at 3:00 p.m.

ADJOURNED AT 5:00 p.m.