

Knox Agricultural Advisory Committee
Meeting of October 20, 2021
Knox Town Hall

Summary

Old business

The meeting was convened, and the committee approved the summary of the September meeting. The committee then discussed and approved the following agenda items for 2022:

1. Attracting young farmers; keeping farms –

- a. Focus on transitions, making Knox residence seeking to retire from farming or sell land aware that the AAC can help with the process if they feel they need it.
- b. Also, G. Kleppel will contact the National Young Farmers Coalition to enlist their help making young farmers aware of opportunities for agriculture in Knox
- c. G. Kleppel will contact BKW school and arrange a meeting to identify ways of collaborating to help retain young people with interests in agriculture or agribusiness; we will explore ways of providing internships on local farms for high school students
- d. The AAC will work to attract agri-businesses to the Hilltowns and provide a career day event to allow young people to identify careers in agri-business

2. Raising awareness of farming in Knox; newsletter –

- a. Councilman Saddlemire will find out when the next Town newsletter will be coming out
- b. Pam Kleppel and Amy Pokorny will write a piece for the newsletter to let people in town know what the AAC is and what we are doing

3. Traffic calming signage of farm roads –

- a. The committee identified 13 roads and intersections that they feel require traffic-calming signage.
- b. The committee favors a sign with a tractor and the words, "SHARE THE ROAD."
- c. Evan will photograph the locations where the AAC recommends signage. The photos will be reviewed at the November AAC meeting and presented to the town board at their January meeting.
- d. Ken Saddlemire raised the issue of roadside guard rails. These can represent a hazard if farm equipment requiring more than one lane encounters traffic moving in the opposite direction. It was recommended that guard rails be moved further from the roadside. This issue will be raised with the board

4. Livestock processing – NYS Inspection (Sen. Hinchey's office) – The committee instructed G. Kleppel to set up a meeting with Senator Hinchey regarding livestock processing and NYS meat inspection

5. Certified kitchen – The AAC will ask Pastor Francis whether the Rock Road Chapel has a certified kitchen and whether it might be available for use by Knox food processors and producers

6. Collaboration with Berne on agricultural issues – The committee decided to table this agenda item for the time being.

New Business

The AAC would like to change their meeting night from the 3rd Wednesday to the 3rd Tuesday of each month. We will bring this to the attention of the Town Clerk.

Adjourn – The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm