

**AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD**  
**NOVEMBER 28, 2006**

**1. ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 6:51 p.m. Board members present were Chair Jason Hurley, Vice-Chair Jacque Daniels, Julie Aitken and Greg Hoover. Also present was Board Secretary Jenevia Edwards recording the meeting. Councilmember Starkey was absent.

**2. DISCUSSION**

**2.1 Livestock Identification**

Ms. Aitken advised that she was still in the process of preparing a list of horses in the various colors; however; it would take some more time. Mr. Hoover asked if Ms. Aitken would be preparing pictures of cows as well. Ms. Aitken responded that the identification list for cows would not indicate breeds only basic colors. Ms. Aitken inquired if cows would have a tag or a brand with Vice-Chair Daniels commenting that they were supposed to have an ear tag but most did not. The Board discussed compiling a list of farmers who would be willing to keep the animal until the owner was located. Vice-Chair Daniels commented that there was hardly any remaining property with cattle on it. Ms. Aitken stated that two lists were needed: one of farmers who would be willing to transport the animal and another list of farmers willing to keep the animal, hopefully for a short period of time until the owner was located. Several names were suggested with Boardmembers indicating that they would approach the farmers to get their permission prior to placing their names on the lists.

A lengthy discussion was devoted to different ways to identify horses and livestock. Mr. Hoover commented that since police officers had monitors in their cars, an easy solution would be to take a picture of the cows during a group feeding showing their location. Once the picture was made available to the Police Department, along with an address, if the animal strayed it would be easy for the police to find the owner. Jason Curtis commented that the Agricultural Extension Office had attempted to create a system to identify horses, however there was resistance from farmers. Vice-Chair Daniels indicated that she has received many inquiries about the program. Ms. Aitken commented that the farmers who were hesitant to participate in the program were the ones with broken fences and strays. Vice-Chair Daniels commented that the basic needs were the identification of the animal and to locate someone willing to hold the animal until the owner could be located and the animal picked up. A brief discussion ensued with Boardmembers suggesting different groups as well as individuals to contact. It was the consensus of the Board that Vice-Chair Daniels make contact with those individuals.

Vice-Chair Daniels suggested contacting Special Projects Director Bonnie Stafiej to find out if the pasture used for hurricane turnout at Robbins Lodge could be utilized as a holding area. Ms. Aitken indicated that Animal Control did not accept large animals and the Police Department did not know what to do with the animal. The Board discussed the length of time that any animal should be kept in a holding area with the consensus that it should be 48 hours. The Board felt that once the animal was held for that length of time, it should become the Town's responsibility to hold the animal in another area until the owner was located. Ms. Aitken commented that individuals should be contacted in every area of the Town. She referred to the Oakhill area and commented that Councilmember Paul would be able to provide a list of people to contact in that area.

**2.2 Lighting Containment Issues in Davie**

A brief discussion ensued regarding the lighting containment issue. There was a negative response from Boardmembers into an inquiry by Ms. Aitken whether Councilmember Starkey had provided information on the lighting issue. Chair Hurley advised that he had downloaded a copy of the lighting standards from the Town Code and offered to provide copies to Boardmembers. Ms. Aitken indicated that

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Robert Breslau, a member of the Site Plan Committee was an expert in “parametric” photometric and she would get some information from him. She commented that the spillover at some locations were code compliance issues.

Ms. Aitken referred to the agriculture Code definition and inquired when Code Compliance Official Daniel Stallone would be able to attend a meeting to discuss the issue. Chair Hurley commented that the issue had been delayed for some time and he feared that some of the items that were previously discussed would be forgotten. Ms. Edwards explained that Mr. Stallone was presently attending school on Tuesdays which did not allow him the opportunity to attend the meetings. Additionally, there had been no formal decision concerning the changes because Mr. Stallone had not had an opportunity to meet with Development Services Director Mark Kutney.

For Mr. Hoover’s benefit, Chair Hurley explained that the Town’s Code was amended so that genuine farms could receive the protection to which they were entitled. However; there were cases where owners were claiming that their operation was agriculture when it clearly was not. Chair Hurley indicated that in order to prevent bad feelings in the community, the Board felt it was necessary to create additional definitions that the Code Compliance staff could use when they approached a business that claimed to be agriculture but was operating as something else. He highlighted the problem that was brought to the Board by the Code Compliance Division, adding that the Division did not want to lose the agricultural component of the Town. Chair Hurley indicated that it had been some time since the Board had created the definitions with the hope that the issue would be resolved by the department, presented to Council for approval and be placed in the Town ordinances. Mr. Hoover asked if this was due to lack of cooperation on staff’s part with Ms. Aitken responding that Mr. Stallone intended to follow-up on the issue but he was very busy. Ms. Aitken explained further that there was a staff shortage but the issue needed to be resolved. She indicated that Mr. Stallone did not have the proper information to handle Code enforcement issues involving farms.

Chair Hurley explained that the Board offered to assist Mr. Stallone with the problems he was having concerning the Code definitions involving agriculture. The Board spent a considerable amount of time creating new definitions and correcting the existing ones, which was presented to Mr. Stallone to review with his staff. Chair Hurley explained that the Board advised Mr. Stallone to return to the Board to discuss the changes and to make whatever corrections that were necessary. He hoped that after reviewing the definitions, a representative from the Board along with Mr. Stallone would present the definitions to the Town Council for approval. Mr. Hoover asked if the Board had received a timely response on the issue with Chair Hurley commented that several invitations had been extended to Mr. Stallone. Ms. Edwards indicated that she had been advised by Mr. Stallone that he was unable to make any decisions regarding the Code definitions without Mr. Kutney’s approval. Mr. Stallone advised that he would meet with the Board early in the new year. The Board agreed to wait until the new year to get a feedback from Mr. Stallone. Ms. Aitken felt that Council’s approval of the Code definitions would be more forthcoming if staff agreed with the definitions that were made by the Board. A brief discussion ensued regarding problems that had occurred in the past when there was no cooperation between the Board and staff and the Board had recommended certain changes to Council.

The Board briefly discussed the problems with nurseries that were operating beyond the boundary of what was considered a nursery. Chair Hurley commented that a request was made to appoint someone to the Board who represented nurseries so that there would be input on the Board from that sector. However, no appointment was made to the Board.

Ms. Aitken commented that the reason the Board has been trying to assist Code Compliance in the control of the abuse that exists with nurseries was to prevent agriculture from getting a bad name. Mr. Curtis explained that there had been many complaints to the Board concerning existing nurseries on Hiatus Road. Chair Hurley indicated that there had been considerable changes to the nurseries on Hiatus Road since Mr. Stallone had contacted the owners. Ms. Aitken stated that the problem did not exist only with

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nurseries but with maintenance contracting companies that claimed to be nurseries. Mr. Hoover asked if there was definition as to the type of items that could be sold. Ms. Aitken responded that this was not in the Town's Code and the Board was trying to incorporate this into the Code. The decision as to what items could be sold would be determined by the Code Compliance Division and not this Board. There was a brief discussion pertaining to the size of a business with Mr. Hoover presenting the idea that nursery operators should be allowed to sell non-agricultural items within a certain square footage. Mr. Hoover asked if there was anything in the Code concerning size with Ms. Aitken responding in the affirmative. Vice-Chair Daniels stated that there was a percentage of the amount of space to be used for ancillary products. Ms. Aitken commented that it would be difficult to put in motion.

Chair Hurley asked Ms. Edwards to make available to Mr. Hoover all previous minutes in which the agricultural code revision was discussed.

**3. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to discuss.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Aitken made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Daniels, to cancel the meeting in December. In a voice vote, with Councilmember Starkey being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 4-0).**

**5. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

Following a brief discussion, the following item was suggested for the agenda for the January meeting:

- o Inviting Mr. Stallone to provide an update on the Code definitions.

**6. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS**

There were no comments or suggestions.

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no objections and no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

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Date Approved

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Chair/Board Member