

**TOWN OF PINE LEVEL  
PINE LEVEL PLANNING BOARD MEETING  
MARCH 25, 2010**

**MEETING INFORMATION**

The Pine Level Planning Board met on Thursday, March 25, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at the Pine Level Town Hall. Vice-Chairman Bob Harvey called the meeting to order with a quorum present.

**ROLL CALL**

X Chairman Randy Holloman	√ Bob Harvey
√ Berry Godwin	X David Strickland
√ Nester McClain	
√ Janet Kleinert	
√ Terry Rains	
√ Faye Starling (alt)	
√ Tracy Harned (alt)	
√ Salvatore Navarro (alt)	

Others present for the meeting were Zoning Administrator Dave Holmes, and Susan Woodard and Betty Whitley with the Johnston County Soil and Water Conservation.

**MINUTES**

Berry Godwin made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 25, 2010 meeting. Nester McClain seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

**JOHNSTON COUNTY VOLUNTARY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT ORDINANCE**

Vice-Chairman Bob Harvey turned the meeting over to Susan Woodard in order to discuss the Johnston County Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinance. She introduced Secretary Betty Whitley. She said that Johnston County had adopted a Voluntary Agricultural District Ordinance on May 1, 2006. Mrs. Woodard said that the district shall contain a minimum of 25 contiguous acres of qualified farmland or contain 3 or more qualified farms within one-half mile of each other. She said that qualifying farmland may be added at any time to the District. Signs identifying approved agricultural district membership may be placed along major roads that pass through or next to those districts. Members of the Agricultural District may place signs on their individual farms denoting their Agricultural District membership.

Mrs. Woodard explained the purpose and benefits of the ordinance:

- 1) The program creates awareness of agricultural areas within Johnston County.
- 2) The program informs non-farming neighbors and potential land purchasers of the presence of agricultural activities.
- 3) Participation in the program gives the farming community an opportunity to provide input to Johnston County Commissioners in their decisions that may affect agriculture.
- 4) Farmer participation in the program is voluntary and the farmer may terminate his/her participation at any time.
- 5) The program helps maintain open space and natural resources as the county's population and development expands.
- 6) The program maintains opportunities to produce locally grown food.

She said that in the event that one or more participants in the District withdraw and the acreage in the District becomes less than the minimum acreage required or results in the remaining land being noncontiguous, a voluntary agricultural district will continue to exist so long as there is one qualifying farm.

Mrs. Woodard said that an Advisory Board is selected for appointment by the Johnston County Board of Commissioners. The Board consists of no less than seven and no more than nine members in order to have the broadest geographic representation as possible. Five members shall be actively engaged in farming. The additional members shall have special interest, experience, or education in agriculture and/or rural land preservation.

Mrs. Woodard said that to secure county certification as qualifying farmland, a farm must:

- 1) Be participating in the farm present-use-value taxation program
- 2) Be certified by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service as being a farm on which at least 2/3 of the land is composed of soils that are best suited for providing food, seed, fiber forage, timber and forestry products, horticultural crops, oil seed crops, livestock and poultry.
- 3) Have good soil qualities
- 4) Are favorable for all major crops common to the county where the land is located
- 5) Have a favorable growing season
- 6) Receive the available moisture needed to produce high yields for an average of eight out of ten years,

Or have been actively used in agricultural, horticultural or forestry operations as defined by N.C.G.S. 105-277.2 (1,2,3) during each of the five previous years, measured from the date on which the determination must be made as to whether the land in question qualifies.

Mrs. Woodard said that a landowner may apply to participate in the program by making application to the chairperson of the Advisory Board or a staff person. The Advisory Board will meet within 90 days to approve or disapprove the application.

Mrs. Woodard said that the following towns have signed and enrolled in the Voluntary Agricultural District: Wilsons Mills, Clayton, Selma, and Benson. She said that they would like for all towns to be on the same page as the County. She said that if the Town of Pine Level agrees to do so they would need to sign the Memo of Understanding and send it to the Johnston County Board of Commissioners.

Mrs. Woodard said the benefits to the Town of Pine Level would be:

- 1) to support agriculture operations
- 2) to provide jobs
- 3) to provide locally grown food
- 4) to protect water quality
- 5) to provide wildlife habitat

After answering questions from the board members, Mrs. Woodard thanked the Planning Board and said if anyone had any other questions to feel free to contact her.

### **MEETING ADJOURNED**

There being no further business to discuss Bob Harvey made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Berry Godwin seconded the motion. The meeting ended at 7:50 p.m.

Connie Capps  
Deputy Clerk

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Vice-Chairman Bob Harvey