

BOARD OF ALDERMEN

ITEM NO. D(2)

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

MEETING DATE: June 16, 2009

TITLE: Discussion with Farmers Regarding Concerns About Town Regulations

DEPARTMENT: Planning	PUBLIC HEARING YES ____ NO <u>X</u>
ATTACHMENTS: A. Resolutions B. Summary notes from May 17 Farmers' meeting, Barton and Kille versions C. Excerpts from Planning Board and BOA minutes	FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Patricia McGuire, Planning Administrator – 918-7327

PURPOSE

At its meeting on May 19, Aldermen Coleman reported that local farmers had held a meeting to discuss concerns about Carrboro regulations and that the Planning Board had been discussing farming as well. The Board of Aldermen decided to schedule a meeting to hear farmer concerns. A resolution providing an opportunity for the Board of Aldermen to articulate any questions and request staff follow-up, if appropriate, has been prepared.

INFORMATION

On April 2, Sharon Cook, Planning Board member, shared with the rest of the board her interest in pursuing a text amendment to allow farm apartments in the WR zoning district. The Planning Board received Cook's proposal. On May 7, Cook requested that the Planning Board sponsor the amendment request. Fourteen citizens offered comments on the matter. The Planning Board decided not to pursue the text amendment, but to schedule a discussion of a possible farm code in the near future so as to better understand the issue and comments they had heard.

The meeting of local farmers referenced by Alderman Coleman was held on May 17th. Notes from the meeting that were prepared by Planning Board Chair, Matthew Barton, and local property owner, Marilyn Kille, that were shared with advisory board members and others are attached (*Attachment B*). A discussion was held on May 21st. Excerpts of the minutes of Planning Board meetings noted in this abstract are attached (*Attachment B*). The full minutes of these Planning Board meetings are posted on the Town's website at <http://www.townofcarrboro.org/AdvBoards/Minutes/advMinutes.htm>.

Town staff sent notices to those individuals in attendance at the February 17th Board of Aldermen public hearing on the Town Code Amendment to Regulate the Application of Fertilizer to Two Acres or More of Land Area and the Planning Board's May 7th meeting inviting them to attend tonight's meeting of the Board of Aldermen to discuss any concerns about town regulations.

FISCAL AND STAFF IMPACT

Depends on follow-up actions identified by the Board of Aldermen.

RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Board of Aldermen listen to farmers, articulate any questions and request staff responses, if appropriate.