



Agriculture Preservation Committee Meeting  
Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
7:00 PM

Note: This meeting will be held in-person in the  
City Hall Council Chambers at 3033 St. Croix Trail  
Afton, MN 55001

#### Agenda

1. Call to Order - Chair Marjorie Wade
2. Roll Call
  - Chris Bliska
  - Cody Kaye
  - Michael Morehead
  - Kevin Murphy
  - Doug Parker
  - Nicole Roettger
  - Nancy Turner
  - Marjorie Wade
  - Karen Weiss
  - Joel Wipperfurth
3. Report from the committee subgroup focused on supporting small scale agricultural uses.
4. Other topics
5. Schedule next meeting
6. Determine Chair for next meeting
7. Adjournment

## Afton Ag Subcommittee Recommendations

What are some of the other smaller farms in Afton and how do we identify them? It would be very helpful for the subcommittee to get thoughts and suggestions from as many small farms as possible.

- Afton Hills Farm
- Rusty Bucket Acres
- 10th Street Farm and Market
- Elm Tree Farm
- Yellow House Vineyard
- Marquette Vineyards
- Wonderland Tree Farm
- Finch Farms
- Mandalay Vineyard
- Rebel Pickle
- Jan's Artisan Gardens
- Little Foot Farm
- Numerous Hmong farms

Discussion on options to promote small farms in Afton:

- Reinststate the downtown Farmer's Market
  - Create an organized event to include products from all local farms
  - Jams, preserves, honey, baked goods
  - Flowers
  - Handcrafted herbal products, soaps
  - Pottery, candles and other products made on Afton farms
  - Hard cider and wine tasting
  - Possible food trucks
  - This market could be modeled after the Mill City Farmers Market in downtown Minneapolis
  - Consider changing the event name to better reflect the market's offerings
- Afton Open Farm Day
  - Any interested small farms could be open one weekend day a month at the same time for people to visit
  - Unique signage at each location to brand event for visitors
- Private tasting rooms
  - By appointment only in Afton to allow on site sales for anyone holding a farm license

- Old Village Night Market
  - Summer weekday evening market event
    - products for sale from Afton's farms
    - restaurants and retail shops open for event
    - music in the park by local musicians
  - This event could be modeled after Stillwater's *Summer Tuesdays*, which has been occurring for many years. This annual summer event also includes an outdoor, family-friendly movie at dusk
  
- Afton Website
  - Link from Afton's home page to each farm's website
  
- Afton Newsletter
  - Designate a section of the newsletter specifically for Ag related events
  - Ask the Mayor to include any farm events in their comments
  - Information for newsletter would be provided to office staff 1-2 months in advance of printing or as requested
  
- Afton's Facebook Page
  - Information relating to Ag events would be provided to Afton's office staff to post events on Afton's page

Discussion of selling farm products directly from farm:

- Minnesota has strong state laws that support agriculture and allows anyone who grows an agriculture product to be able to sell it off their property.
  
- Doing this in Afton is currently limited to a farm stand at the end of the driveway. It is worth noting that:
  - Minnesota state law requires that eggs sold from a farm must be kept at 45 degrees or colder, which is difficult to do from a roadside stand. Farms should be permitted to sell eggs from a refrigerator within a covered structure.
  - Fresh flowers require refrigeration prior to selling
  - Herbal products made from plants and botanicals grown on the farm such as lotions, salves, and balms also require a cooler environment.
  
- How does a CSA differ from a farm stand regarding this (e.g., refrigerated coolers are permitted for a CSA)