



**Agriculture Preservation Committee Meeting
Monday, November 15, 2021
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. Welcome and Thanks to Committee Members**
- 2. Introductions**
 - A. Committee Members (share reason(s) for serving)**

**Chris Bliska
Cody Kaye
Michael Morehead
Kevin Murphy
Doug Parker
Nicole Roettger
Nancy Turner
Marjorie Wade
Karen Weiss
Joel Wipperfurth**
 - B. Barbara Strandell, Facilitator**
- 3. Ensure Common Understanding of Committee's Mission/Purpose**
- 4. Organize to Achieve Committee's Purpose and Objectives**
- 5. Identify Actions to Achieve Committee's Purpose and Objectives**
- 6. Summarize Committee's Discussion**
- 7. Establish Next Action Steps**
- 8. Adjournment**

Ag. Preservation Committee Memo

Meeting: November 15, 2021

**City of Afton
3033 St. Croix Trl, P.O. Box 219
Afton, MN 55001**

To: Agriculture Preservation Committee Members

From: Ron Moorse, City Administrator

Date: November 10, 2021

Re: Agriculture Preservation Committee Mission/Purpose

The context of the mission of the Agriculture Preservation Committee is that agriculture is a key element of Afton's vision of itself as a rural village and a city of open fields with an open, rural character. Agriculture is the bedrock of Afton's history, and the key to Afton's vision and purpose. The key importance of agriculture to Afton's vision is set out in its Comprehensive Plan, excerpts of which are attached.

When the City Council created the Agriculture Preservation Committee, they defined the mission of the committee generally as supporting and preserving the continuation of sustainable agriculture in our community. More specifically, the mission could be described as follows: To identify/develop/implement strategies for supporting and preserving sustainable agriculture in Afton. Based on the City's vision as set out in the Comprehensive Plan, the mission could also be described as preserving those things that make Afton a unique and special place and protecting them for current and future residents. This is an important and exciting mission.

EXCERPTS FROM AFTON'S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

PREAMBLE

We, the residents of the City of Afton, Minnesota, in order to:
preserve our rural sanctuary amidst suburban sprawl;
preserve our agricultural heritage and land use;
preserve the character of our Old Village;
protect our groundwater and surface water from contamination;
protect our rolling hills from erosion;
provide for open spaces to be enjoyed by future generations; and
ensure a sound tax base and a sense of community
Do ordain and establish this Comprehensive Plan.

Introduction

*Flow gently, sweet Afton, among thy green braes,
Flow gently, I'll sing thee a song in thy praise;
My Mary's asleep by thy murmuring stream,
Flow gently, sweet Afton, disturb not her dream.*

When Robert Burns penned these words, he was describing his own idyllic rural sanctuary in southern Scotland. Half a century later, settlers of the St. Croix Valley would recognize the same spirit in the locale of the township and city they would name Afton.

Afton strives to remain true to the vision of a rural environment, a place neither purely agricultural, nor purely residential, but a blend of both.

Vision Statement

The City of Afton began as a country village. The city's Old Village provides a business center and a rural village atmosphere typically only found far away from the conveniences of a metropolitan area.

Afton is also a city of open fields. The farm fields of southwestern Afton represent the city's historical roots in agriculture and continue to be farmed in the face of development pressures on Afton's borders. Methods of preserving Afton's agrarian roots must be found if the city is to remain a rural sanctuary.

Purpose

Afton's location within a major metropolitan area belies the rural atmosphere that greets commuters at its borders. Residents and visitors to Afton know they have arrived somewhere special. When Afton residents were asked what they like best about living in Afton, the three most prevalent responses all related to Afton's natural, rural character; each of them is crucial to making Afton a unique community:

1. Rural location and low population density;
2. Open space and dispersed pattern of development; and
3. Presence of active farms and agriculture.

The purpose of the Afton Comprehensive Plan is to perpetuate this character. It is to identify and capture those things that make Afton a unique and special place and protect them for current and future residents.