

**Friends of Agriculture**  
**MINUTES**  
**January 5, 2022**

Attendees:

Board Members: Linda Holland, David Jackson, Glenn Robinson, Laura Robinson and Doug Singleton  
Others: Jeff Hawkins, Brian Rindt

Opening Remarks: Glenn wished everyone happy new year and hope that it is a great year.

Minutes – Linda Holland

- **Approved** Minutes by vote from 10 November 2021 meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **Visit to Ellijay Facility (10 November).** Board members (Doug Singleton, Linda Holland, Sue Cuzzort & Glenn Robinson) and visitors (Jeff Hawkins & Marianne Wood, Chamber of Commerce) traveled to Ellijay to visit their Agriculture Education Center which was the baseline for ours. In the last year, they have received a \$400,000 grant to build a research facility including a test flock of chickens, processing center, orchard and landscape design. They will be paid rent as they process chickens from a test flock. Those and the fruit they grow will be used in their school meal program.
- **Bylaw Updated.** A copy of the proposed updates was emailed to all and voted on in the meeting. **Approved.**
- **Donate Button.** Laura discussed the addition of a donate button to the webpage that will allow direct donations made to our Century Bank account. She had spoken to our broker, Stacy Jefferson, at Edward Jones, Cedartown about doing the same for our account there. He strongly recommended against it as it could be easily hacked.
- **Donations.** Glenn encouraged all to seek donations using the donate button or direct donations to Century Bank or Edward Jones. Please stress our tax exempt status and give them our webpage where they can find more information. We have thank you notes to send to all donors.
- **PO Box Paid** through 11/30/2022.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- **Update on Zoning.** Glenn and Brian Rindt visited Carolyn Elliott at the Zoning Commission. Brian presented the zoning codes that may be applicable as well as

considered which SIC codes define our non-profit status as they are often requested by zoning commissions. Three were discussed: General Farm (0291-0000), Education Services (8299-02010 or Other Activities (8641). Brian felt there should be no need for zoning approval given that the land is under an agriculture land trust and the building is under agriculture education for tax exemption, but we will seek it to avoid potential issues in the future.

Some other questions discussed were the Polk County Codes which must be answered in the formal request for zoning approval:

- Signage
- Residential set-backs of 500'
- Distance for fencing and livestock shelters from homes
- Use by clubs, fundraising, festivals, arts, etc. as they apply to both the zoning and land trust
- Off-street parking

The steps required to build:

1. Apply for zoning by setting out preliminary building location and general plan. Submit detailed plans such as type of building materials, general lay out and use.
2. Once zoning is approved, a detailed engineering plans/drawings must be developed including water sources, sewer/septic, pressure for sprinkler systems and collections, soil study, electrical, communication, ADA<sup>1</sup> compliance, HVAC, etc. Brian estimated this to cost approximately \$50,000. [Other estimates show as much as 7-8% of the building cost which could be \$480,000.]
3. Develop a Request for Proposal for construction.

We also discussed the possibility of attaining LEED<sup>2</sup> certification for environmentally sound design and construction processes. Brian noted that we could use those processes without seeking certification which would add to the cost.

***When can we present to the Tripp Foundation?*** Once the land and plan have been approved by zoning.

***How long will it take to complete the paperwork?*** One month or more. It requires a form, detailed plan, drawing, and fee.

- **Stakeholders Meeting.** Glenn proposed having a stakeholder meeting once the initial drawing is completed for inputs from the community. After discussion, we agreed to hold it on March 1, 6:00pm at the College and Career Academy, Hon Building, Cedartown High School. That would give us time to complete the drawing and advertise meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> American with Disabilities Act

<sup>2</sup> Leadership in Energy and Environment Design.

- **Central Repository for Friends of Ag.** Laura discussed the need for a centralized location for Friends of Agriculture documents. Linda Holland agreed to keep the originals in her office until the center is built. Laura will maintain a duplicate set of copies for backup.
- **GA/AL Land Trust Contract Review.** Laura provided copies of an overview of the Land Trust contract and reviewed it. There were no questions. She provided copy of the full contract to Linda Holland to keep with the official documents.

## **OPEN DISCUSSION**

**Treasurers Report.** Janet Tinney was sick so Laura presented the report and provided all a copy of the Balance Sheet to date. **Approved.**

**Closing Remarks.** Please publicize the Stakeholder Meeting.

Adjourn

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Glenn Robinson, President