

Carter County Extension Agricultural Committee Minutes
University of Tennessee Carter County Extension Office
Thursday, April 6, 2017
6:00p.m.

Present: Chairman, Ross Garland, Charles VonCannon, Dawn Winters, Bobby Blevins, Vickie Clark, Shirley Buckles, Cathy Bunton, Randal Jenkins, Connie Heiskell, Kathleen Wilson

Ross Garland called the meeting to order. Motion was made by Randal Jenkins to adopt the meeting agenda, Shirley Buckles seconded. Agenda passed.

Roll was called and a quorum was present.

Minutes of the October 16, 2016 meeting were discussed. Spelling errors were corrected. Motion was made by Bobby Blevins to approve minutes, seconded by Randal Jenkins, minutes were approved.

Old Business:

Vickie Clark discussed Tennessee Code 49-50-104 pertaining to the County agricultural extension committee. Discussion included that the membership of Carter County's committee met the requirements of the code. It was also discussed that each member serves for two years for a maximum of six years. Meeting dates and times were discussed and meetings were tentatively planned for the first Monday of each required month at 4:00p.m.

New Business:

- New committee member Bobby Blevins was unanimously voted in to replace Larry Nave.
- Terms of membership for the Agricultural Committee were discussed. Randal Jenkins motioned to approve, Bobby Blevins seconded, motion was approved.
- Approval of new Agricultural Agent, Kathleen Wilson. Connie Heiskell reviewed the process for hiring new agents. The first search was unsuccessful. The second search produces a transfer request from Kathleen Wilson. Kathleen Wilson gave her presentation that she presented to the hiring committee which included Charles VonCannon. The committee has some discussion with Kathleen Wilson. Kathleen then leaves the meeting room. Connie Heiskell gives the committee an agreement that needs to be signed by the committee upon approving Kathleen Wilson. Shirley Buckles makes a motion to approve Kathleen Wilson, Charles VonCannon seconds. Ross Garland requests an individual roll call to approve Kathleen Wilson as the Carter County Agricultural Extension Agent 1. Individual roll call is made and the vote is unanimous in favor of approving Ms. Wilson. In addition each committee member signs the agreement that Connie Heiskell needed approval on. Connie Heiskell thanked the committee for use of Parliamentary Procedures. She also welcomes Kathleen Wilson to Carter County and recommends that she uses the committee members as community resources to help her as she begins. Kathleen Wilson will begin May 1, and will be full time in Carter County by July 1.
- UT Extension program updates:
 - Connie Heiskell complimented the improvement done to the meeting room at the extension office.

- Vickie Clark discusses the needs of the historic home that houses the extension offices. These improvements include electrical updates, as well as heating and AC in some rooms. The Fire Marshall has approved of the building but the floor in one upper floor room is hazardous. She also discussed that the building is handicap accessible but that the restrooms are not.
- Vickie Clark explains that the other county agents are not present because they are training/teaching a gardening program for an approved grant that will allow families with the space for a garden to receive the support they need to grow a sustainable garden.
- Vickie Clark discusses that another grant application has been made to provide an after-school program one afternoon a month in the city schools. This will allow a 4-H program to begin in the city schools.
- The extension office will also be participating in the "Building a Healthier Community" initiative that the county has begun. If requirements are met for this program \$5,000 may be available to help with programs to create a healthier community. One possible use of this funding would be to purchase signage for the Tweetsie Trail. Currently the program is looking for 15 churches that would like to become involved in this initiative.
- Ross Garland gives praise to the Facebook page that the extension office has, and mentions that it is very informative.
- A 4-H opportunity exists to raise \$2,000 and have it matched with \$1,000. Vickie Clark mentions that this is a very important endowment because it helps children attend 4-H events that they would not be able to afford otherwise.

Committee Comments:

- Shirley Buckles mentions that the Farm Bureau tree give away is Saturday, April 8 at 8:00 a.m. This event will take place at the Farm Bureau parking lot.
- Vickie Clark mentions the need for a workday for the office. She has a vision of orange and white plantings. Vickie thanked the Mayor for the new roof, parking area, and the exterior painting. Some discussion of possible workdays is made but nothing was finalized.
- Charles VonCannon tells that the Boys and Girls club will be having an open house on April 13 at 5:00 p.m. He also mentions that the East Tennessee Christian Home will be having a silent auction and dinner at Boones Creek Christian Church April 28th, Silent Auction at 5:00 p.m. and Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
- Connie Heiskell shared that the network of 4-H across the United States and in Tennessee have worked together to raise over \$88,000 to support the 4-H students that suffered losses in the Sevierville fires.
- The East Tennessee Nursery Association Plant Auction will be held at Sycamore Shoals State Park on Saturday, April 15.

Adjourn:

Randal Jenkins motioned to adjourn-seconded by Bobby Blevins. Motion was approved unanimously.