

Schoharie County Planning & Development Agency



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Seward and Carlisle Agricultural Committee Meeting
October 27, 2008 Schoharie County Planning office

Attendance:

Committee: Linda Cross, Larry Bradt, Richard Bates, Mac Holmes, Larry Phillips, Michelle Linnane

Consultant: Laura Ten Eyck

County: Lee Pratt, Dottie Wilcox

Audience: Theresa Murphy

Start: 7:05 pm

Introduction and the list of committee members with contact information was generated.

The committee then assigned tasks. Laura will be responsible for formulation of agendas and communicate meeting materials and reminders to the joint committee and executive committee. E mail will be the primary means of contact unless otherwise noted.

Lee Pratt will be responsible for taking the minutes of the meetings and getting them typed and out to committee members.

The regular meeting date was set for the 4th Monday of the month at 7 pm at the Planning office.

Laura asked for background information on the towns.

Linda Cross explained that the Town of Carlisle does not have zoning but does have a comprehensive plan that is fairly new. The Town is not interested in zoning but has a strong belief in agriculture.

Larry Phillips spoke about the Town of Seward which currently has zoning but does not have a comprehensive plan. He expressed that this process should aid in developing a comprehensive plan.

Laura asked how the meetings and committees would be organized. Linda expressed that meetings in the individual towns will be as needed while the executive committee will meet on a monthly basis to keep the process moving. Linda will be responsible for communicating with the Carlisle committee and Larry will handle Seward.

Laura then began to review the task list. It was noted that task A ([inventory](#)) although mostly completed still needs some fine tuning. Further it was noted that Lee will need to start working with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Schoharie County and Soil and Water to start work on assessing agricultures impact on the community.

Task C is up to each town to come up with a list of 10 people to be interviewed in each Town. Each town should think of more than 10 names so that alternates can be identified in the process.

Task D American Farmland Trust will review survey information from Carlisle's Comprehensive Plan survey. AFT is willing to help refine questions if the Town of Seward would like to start the process for a comprehensive plan survey. (Actually Lee I don't think that was said. My understanding is that Seward and the County will have complete responsibility for the survey and then AFT will review the results) The Town of Seward will utilize County Planning services to complete the survey.

Task E – F Review local laws will be done by AFT

Task G Covers mapping and was discussed at some length. It will be important that whatever is designated will have sound logic behind it so that it can be more easily explained to those not on the committee.

Task H will need more input from the communities on what the definition of areas of environmental significance is. Some discussion as to how such features will be defined ensued. It will be up to each committee for each Town to develop that meaning.

After these are completed task I will be to develop the tool box of farmland protection (I think here you mean to say that--after the above tasks are completed AFT will develop the farmland protection toolbox.)

Mac asked if the interviews would be done in a singular format or if 3 to 4 people might be interviewed at the same time.

Laura said that interviews will be one on one unless otherwise specifically directed because it seems to be a more honest format.

Laura and Lee then reviewed the thought process for picking those to be interviewed. Keep in mind that you are looking for a diverse and somewhat balanced group that will represent a cross section of agriculture in your town. They should be somewhat diverse and also come from all across your town.

The committee received a list of sample questions at the meeting and will receive additional materials by email.

The meeting closed at 8:45.