

# Schoharie County Planning & Development Agency



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Seward and Carlisle Agricultural Committee Meeting  
November 24, 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  
**Audience:**

Start: 7:10 pm

The committee discusses what a quorum is and equal representation of both towns was discussed. It was decided that a quorum would be 2 members from each town and the full committee will remain as six members with three members being from each town.

Minutes from the previous meeting where approved by consensus.

The name of the committee was then brought up. It was agreed that the committee will be called “the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Committee” and will be named as such for both towns.

Both Towns need to gather up documents that will aid AFT in its effort to understand local regulations and the positive and negative aspects attached to these regulations.

## **Seward**

Zoning Laws and Subdivision  
No Dumping                      Junk Car  
Right to Farm law

## **Carlisle**

Comprehensive plan  
Proposed Building Permit law  
Right to Farm law

The pro and con aspects of requiring a building permit for agricultural buildings was discussed. Some members felt that it did not act as a hindrance to agriculture while others felt it was an undo hardship. Laura stated that such a local law would be looked at as part of the process of developing an agriculture and farmland protection plan.

The group then proceeded to look at the maps that had originally been developed for each town. After lee explained these original maps he then presented that maps that had been generated for the Town of Wright.

Larry Phillips brought up the inconsistency in assessor codes as they relate to agriculture. “Someone with 75 acres does not have 75 acres of lawn”

Rick Bates Added that larger lots are often classified as residential/ agricultural

Laura asked to bring the discussion back to the point of “What is relevant information to understand the agricultural character of the town?”

Laura asked the group to take a few moments and refer to CIRCULAR 1500 from ARTICLE 25AAA of Agriculture and Markets Law

The group then discussed and pondered the meaning of “Agricultural Protection” and how each town will look at fulfilling that task.

Lee reiterated that this needs to happen on a town level and continue on an individual track. Laura agreed

Laura asked about the progress on the survey of agriculture.

Both Towns stated that they had to take some time and make minor modifications to the informal driving survey of the town.

Laura asked that those modifications be made by the next meeting to keep the process going.

Michelle L. asked if individuals should attend tall meetings and not just those for individual.

The consensus of the group was that such a thing can be done but it was not necessary because of the use of the executive committee and town committee structure.

Laura then talked about the need to have a definition for agriculture so that as the process continues it will be easier to make decisions on relevant data and it will also help to establish some frame work as other regulations are reviewed and plan is developed.

Laura spoke briefly about having an open public meeting and that committee members should be thinking about possible date and important information for them.

Stationary for the boards was discussed. Most members of the committee felt that stationary for each town would help to make the interviewees feel connected to the process.

The sample draft letter of introduction was read by the committee. Michelle L. asked that the third paragraph reflect “looking for your input at the ground level”

The committee decided to work on individual draft letters in the Town committees.

The meeting closed at 8:45.

**Next meeting December 22, 2008**

**For the Next meeting**

**Question approval +/- any questions**

**Finalize list of interviewees**

**Finalize letters of introduction**

**Update Ag Survey**