

# Schoharie County Planning & Development Agency



349 Mineral Springs Road  
Cobleskill, NY 12043-5605  
(518) 234-3751 / Fax (518) 234-3951

Jody Zakrevsky  
*Director*

Alicia A. Terry  
*Director*

Seward and Carlisle Agricultural Committee Meeting  
December 22, 2008 Schoharie County Planning office

## **Attendance:**

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

Consultant: Laura Ten Eyck

County: Lee Pratt, Zach Thompson

Audience:

Start: 7:10 pm

Larry Bradt addressed the letters going out to interviewees and is shown the updated letter for Seward. The Seward letter is felt to be a good example and Carlisle will have a copy made for them with their stationary.

Letter will be mailed to the first 10 interview candidates with verbiage "...will be contacted..." Having a second letter with "may" replacing "will" was discussed, but it was decided that that letters will only be sent to the first 10 at this time, and alternates will be contacted as needed in 2009.

Motion to approve last meeting's minutes moved by Rick and seconded by Linda. All were in favor.

A discussion was raised about what type of map would best show agriculture in a town. Ag. Practices, best soils (prime farmland), Ag. Districts, wetlands and other resources were all discussed as possible layers on a map. Use of transparencies and/or overlays discussed. Zach will present different possibilities using GIS software at the next meeting.

An update is needed from CCE showing the economic impact of agriculture and how ag. fits into the economy (numbers derived in part from the animal inventories conducted by road in Carlisle and Seward, as asked by Larry Phillips and answered by Lee and Rick – more on that next).

Seward animal inventory has been completed; Carlisle's is underway.

Public meetings are an important part of this process and it was decided that February or March would be a good time to hold them. Carlisle settled on March 11 at 7:00 pm and Seward set theirs for March 16.

List of interviewees discussed and finalized, with an eye towards keeping a good mix and balance of different livelihoods.

Interview questions were distributed and approved.

The definition of agriculture was discussed. The Ag. and Markets definition will likely be referenced, along with the possible inclusion of agricultural use and anything that produces agricultural income. Self-sufficient style practices also were discussed, as the committee felt that they should be included in the definition.

The meeting closed at 8:45.

**Next meeting January 26, 2009**

**For the Next meeting:**

**Maps**

**Interviews**

**Public Meetings**

**Definition of agriculture**

**Think about goals for the plan**

**Public comment**