

Schoharie County Planning & Development Agency



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Director

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Seward and Carlisle Agricultural Committee Meeting
January 25, 2010 -- Schoharie County Planning office

Attendance:

Committee: Larry Phillips, Peter Bent, Richard Bates, and Linda Cross

Consultant: Laura Ten Eyck

County: Michele Strobeck, Zach Thompson

Other: David Cox (CCE), Theresa Murphy

Meeting started at 7:11.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the December meeting. P. Bent moved to approve the minutes. L. Phillips seconded, motion passed, carried.

L. Ten Eyck passed out the newly revised "New York Agricultural Landowner Guide; A Guide to Public Farmland Conservation Programs" published by American Farmland Trust. P. Bent suggested that a supply of these booklets be sent to the town Clerk for distribution to landowners.

L. Ten Eyck showed the Committee the agricultural lands map that has been produced for Town of Wright Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan and described how the Town of Wright is seeking to reach out to landowners of agricultural lands (identified as active by the committee) who are not already enrolled in the Agricultural District.

D. Cox and M. Strobeck spoke how they will be working on gathering data for the each town's economic impact statement for the plans. Information can be taken from the 2007 agricultural census and from the 2000 U.S. Census.

L. Ten Eyck reminded the committee that at the December meeting it was decided that the committee would take the next several months to critically review the draft set of goals and recommendations. Discussion of Goal 1 began. Highlights included: a discussion of what was meant by a "Critical Mass" of farmland; the difficulty in finding volunteers to serve on town boards and committees; finding existing brochures that can be used to educate developers and home buyers discussing advantages of conservation design; making a checklist part of the planning board's review for lands in an agricultural district; biennial training for planning boards regarding agricultural districts; the role that property taxes and agricultural assessment play in encouraging landowners to rent lands to farmers.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50.

Next meeting (Feb. 22, 2010)

Minutes submitted by M. Strobeck