

Schoharie County Planning & Development Agency



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Seward and Carlisle Agricultural Committee Meeting
February 22, 2010 -- Schoharie County Planning office

Attendance:

Committee: Carl Barbic, Larry Bradt, Linda Cross, Mac Holmes

Consultant: Laura Ten Eyck

County: Michele Strobeck

Meeting started at 7:20.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the January meeting. L. Bradt moved to approve the minutes of the January meeting with the date changed to January 25, 2010. L. Cross seconded, motion passed, carried.

Discussion continued from the previous meeting beginning with Goal I-D (Land in Transition). L. Ten Eyck commented on how many phone calls come into American Farmland Trust from young people looking for farmland. She encouraged the development of a brochure that would market the Towns of Seward and Carlisle as a good place to farm. M. Strobeck discussed the opportunity for the towns in Schoharie County to develop a "Come farm with us" program and website. Other highlights of the discussion for Goal I included; intergenerational transfers and getting more information available at the town level from organizations like New York FarmNet; creating a program of matching interns and recent graduates with farms or creating a network of farms that "share" an intern so the intern would receive a wide variety of on-farm experiences; term easement programs and the possible controversy over these types of programs because if farmers are paying less taxes other non-farmers usually end up paying more; however in the case of Seward and Carlisle survey results indicate that preserving farmland is a high priority of both farm and nonfarm landowners; and C. Barbic discussed that the State should be encouraged to maintain the ag assessment and ag building exemptions programs even in these tough financial times.

Discussion for Goal II began focused on "Fostering Economic Opportunities for Agriculture" in the Towns of Seward and Carlisle. Discussion highlights surrounding Goal II included; discussion of opportunities for town boards to pass resolutions supporting agricultural grassroots efforts; changing the wording of Recommendation 3 to "Participate in the development of a local cooperative of farmers to market their products"; and making a list of activities for the Town Agricultural Committees and the County Ag Marketing Specialist to work on.

L. Ten Eyck briefly discussed the billable activities from American Farmland Trust as the State Department of Agriculture and Markets is requesting as many vouchers be turned in by March 31, 2010.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50.

Next meeting (March 22, 2010)

Minutes submitted by M. Strobeck