

Schoharie County Planning & Development Agency



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Seward and Carlisle Agricultural Committee Meeting
April 27, 2009 Schoharie County Planning office

Attendance:

Committee: Linda Cross, Larry Phillips, Mac Holmes, Richard Bates

Consultant: Laura Ten Eyck

County: Zach Thompson

Audience:

Richard arrived at 7:45 to give the committee a quorum. Meeting started at 7:50.

Larry motioned to approve the minutes; seconded by Mac and approved unanimously.

A possible solution to some issues currently facing local farmers proposed by Larry would be to have farmers organize in some fashion while also setting up a group to market products to buyers. In this scenario, buyers would communicate with the intermediary group what products they wish to purchase in a certain timeframe and then farmers fill those needs with their production. This would also call for farmers to be prepared for diverse practices, which would benefit them in times when a particular section of the agricultural industry is struggling.

Seward began their inventory of parcels active in agriculture and Carlisle will do the same once their committee has non-conflicting schedules. Both towns hope to have this step completed before the May meeting.

Laura is actively identifying local ordinances in Carlisle relevant to the Ag. Plan in order for the Plan to have some influence on land use regulations (i.e. making them friendlier for agriculture).

Laura asked Larry about the possibility of a Comprehensive Land Use Survey, which Larry sounds receptive to. SCPDA would assist Seward with the survey with the hopes that the results would be useful for the Ag. Plan and potentially for an eventual Comprehensive Plan for Seward (note: these discussions are preliminary, nothing more).

The progress reports and meeting minutes are now online, each with appropriate letterhead, and Laura is working on an introduction to the plan and what it is to accompany those documents on Seward and Carlisle's respective websites.

Laura is going to begin writing the interview summary because there are only 2 interviewees from each town remaining, due to scheduling conflicts, and their contributions can be added to the summary as needed.

Part of the towns listing parcels active in agriculture is to encourage farmers outside of an Ag. District to enroll in one to receive the benefits. This is only applicable to Carlisle, as all areas of Seward outside the hamlets are already in an Ag. District.

Once the process of identifying parcels in agriculture is completed, a total acreage devoted to farming can be generated. This number is vital to David Cox from CCE completing his study of the economic impact of agriculture in the respective towns.

The next meeting is set for May 18, rather than the 4th Monday of the month, due to Laura being out of state at the end of the month. A representative from Soil and Water may be present at the meeting to educate the committee about soil types, the history and science behind the soil survey, the consideration of soils during land use planning and programs available to assist farmers.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07.

For the Next Meeting:

Active Ag. Inventory

Goals/Strategies

Soils