

Schoharie County Planning & Development Agency



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Seward and Carlisle Agricultural Committee Meeting
April 26, 2010 -- Schoharie County Planning office

Attendance:

Committee: Carl Barbic, Larry Bradt, Richard Bates, Linda Cross, Mac Holmes, Peter Bent, Michelle Linnane
Consultant: Laura Ten Eyck
County: Michele Strobeck

Meeting started at 7:09 p.m.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the March meeting. L. Cross moved to approve the minutes of the March meeting. C. Barbic seconded, motion passed, carried.

Discussion continued from the previous meeting beginning with Goal II, Section A (Livestock). M. Holmes suggested language changes to speak about actions and recommendations in general and then offer specific examples to illustrate the recommendations and actions. Highlights of the discussion about livestock included coordinating a focused and concerted effort to locate a USDA Slaughter facility within one of the Towns of Seward and Carlisle because of each of these towns strategic location to highways and the fact that there are a number of people in these towns focused on animal production. C. Barbic added that there is a lot to consider in processing and packaging of meat products and offered that if a facility cannot be feasibly located here, that producers should be aggregating and transporting together. The committee also discussed the lack of holding/refrigeration capacity for aging the processed meats.

It was also suggested for Goal II, Section B (Crops) and Section C (Direct Marketing) that the language be changed to speak about the actions in general terms and then offer more specific examples as had been discussed earlier. Suggestions for Section B action i included adding biofuels, action iii describing the quality and varieties of different hay. Suggestions for Section C—Recommendation 8 adding words to describe farms undergoing diversification efforts; Recommendation 9 adding a description of CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) models.

Discussion for Goal III (Educate People about Agriculture) included creating a brochure about local agriculture laws for distribution at the Town Halls; inserting information about diversification options in annual Ag Assessment letters that are mailed to farmers; using on-line courses for educational opportunities; and reviving local granges and using various social networking opportunities for the younger generation of farmers.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05.

Next meeting (May 24, 2010)

Minutes submitted by M. Strobeck