

Schoharie County Planning & Development Agency



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Seward and Carlisle Agricultural Committee Meeting
May 24, 2010 -- Schoharie County Planning office

Attendance:

Committee: Carl Barbic, Richard Bates, Linda Cross, Mac Holmes

Consultant: Laura Ten Eyck

County: Michele Strobeck

Meeting started at 7:15 p.m.

The committee reviewed the minutes from the April meeting. M. Holmes moved to approve the minutes of the March meeting. R. Bates seconded, motion passed, carried.

L. Ten Eyck distributed a "very" rough draft of the plan for the Town of Seward. L. Ten Eyck explained that separate documents for each town will be completed at the appropriate time.

Discussion continued from the previous meeting:

M. Holmes pointed out that there are a variety of trends happening in agriculture – especially in terms of grassfed animal agriculture that may once again make our lands deemed "marginal" much more valuable in the future.

L. Ten Eyck cited the issue of high property taxes as the #1 issue from farmers she spoke with during the interview process.

The Committee discussed the need to educate rural landowners about the reasons for zoning and how zoning can work to the advantage of farmers who are making informed decisions. The committee discussed offering a zoning workshop for farmers as a recommendation.

The Committee discussed the definition of agriculture and that for the purpose of this plan they are using the state annual income and acreage requirements. It was recommended to put the actual definition in the appendix to the plan.

It was discussed that a draft of the "review of the land use regulations for the Town of Seward" should be reviewed at the next meeting.

The Committee also discussed the current series of maps and what could also be added including: Karst, wetlands (Bear Swamp), and the gas pipeline.

M. Strobeck will also be working to gather more information for the economic impact statements for each of the towns.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40.

Next meeting (June 28, 2010)

Minutes submitted by M. Strobeck