

Schoharie County Planning & Development Agency



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

Attendance:

Committee: Larry Phillips, Mac Holmes, Richard Bates, Michelle Linnane, Larry Bradt

Consultant: Laura Ten Eyck

County: Michele Strobeck, Zach Thompson

Audience:

Meeting started at 7:19.

Larry moved to approve the July minutes; seconded by Michelle and carried unanimously.

Laura presented a revised timeline and it was discussed by the committee -- February 26 is the current deadline for plan submission to Town Boards for approval. Laura recommended that Seward (as the lead agency) applies for an extension of one year. Larry Phillips moved to approve the extension application and Michelle seconded and the motion was so moved for both towns. The application was emailed to Brenda Southworth for printing on Seward letterhead to be signed by Larry P. and mailed to Ag. and Markets. If the extension is approved Laura will create a new timeline.

The dialogue regarding the interview summaries were centered on the committee mentioning the problems and/or potential solutions that were most pervasive in the towns. High taxes are a common problem in the area and led to a couple of ideas: no foreclosures for one year on properties with unpaid taxes or no interest on late payments for agricultural properties. Other steps that could help the farming industry are building a powdered milk processing facility, a slaughterhouse, or using grant money for a feed mill. What would be most effective are admittedly far-fetched ideas, such as cooperation amongst farmers and farmers receiving a fair price for anything grown or produced (as opposed to having prices set at the CME or elsewhere). These topics will be discussed further at the August meeting.

Having a meeting with Farm Bureau was mentioned as a good way to get even more input on local agricultural issues. This led to a brief discussion of the goals that Laura created for the meeting, but it was decided they should be discussed further at the next meeting when all committee members are (hopefully) present. A meeting with Farm Bureau would potentially take place after the committee has further discussed goals.

Meeting adjourned at 9:11.

For the Next Meeting:

Active Ag. Inventory

Goals/Strategies

Land Use Survey – Seward

Comprehensive Plan Survey - Carlisle