

# Schoharie County Planning & Development Agency



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## Seward and Carlisle Agricultural Committee Meeting August 24, 2009 -- Schoharie County Planning office

### **Attendance:**

Committee: Larry Phillips, Mac Holmes, Richard Bates, Michelle Linnane, Larry Bradt, Linda Cross  
Consultant: Laura Ten Eyck  
County: Michele Strobeck, Zach Thompson  
Audience: Theresa Murphy

Meeting started at 7:06.

The committee reviewed the minutes from July's meeting. Movement to accept the minutes made by Michelle and seconded by Larry Phillips; minutes approved unanimously.

Larry Bradt informed the committee that Carlisle's Town Board approved the one-year extension for the Plan despite voicing some concern over the length of this process. Laura will create a new timeline for the September meeting that will reflect the deadline moving to February 26, 2011, noting that the entire time should not be needed. An early estimate is an addition of four months to the original February 2010 end date to allow for an additional four meetings. This would place the completion in the summer of 2010, unless additional public hearings (beyond the one scheduled for each town) and revision time are needed to address the concerns of the public or town boards.

The committee discussed the importance of getting to the public and to various boards in each town as early and fully as possible so when the draft plan is being presented and public hearings are held there won't be any surprises for those in the audience. The presentation about the importance of protecting agriculture made by Michele and the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Committee at the 8/21 Board of Supervisors meeting was extremely well received and so Michele will try to obtain a copy of the Schopeg video from CDP for distribution.

The discussion regarding draft goals was continued from last meeting. Michelle asked about making the goals: Finance, Marketing, Collaboration, Regulations, and Education. All of the specific recommendations, strategies, and actions would then fall under one of those general goals to further define them. Laura said there should be a goal somehow following the theme of making town land use regulations farm-friendly or however it would be worded (for example, it could say "Goal: Strengthening the business of agriculture in the town with policies and regulations that support the continuation of agriculture as the primary land use in the town" or something along those lines). These examples show how the goals should be broad in nature and lead into the more specific recommendations, as follow -- make subdivision regulations incorporate wording stating development adjacent to agricultural lands would have to provide a buffer bordering the farming property at their cost; make sure local regulations don't limit things like direct marketing

opportunities for farmers; inform people of specifics of the towns (of things such as Ag. Districts, Right to Farm laws, etc) with a recommendation or strategy of creating packets with local laws and regulations to be distributed or available for pickup from town buildings. Edits made to the goals from the July and August meetings will be matched with new goals and recommendations made by the committee and consolidated by Laura for continued discussion.

The Carlisle Comprehensive Plan Survey analysis is in the works now that Laura has the 2004 results to go with the 1997 results that she previously had access to.

The Seward Land Use Plan Survey has gone out and has a return deadline of October 5. Brian Fleury of the SCPDA is building the database to input the survey results.

Mapping of Ag. Lands still needs to be completed, and so there will be a separate day/night meetings held by Carlisle to include as wide a variety of people as possible. Brian Fleury will have lists of ag. exemptions and a map showing “other” uses available for those meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40.

**For the next meeting:**

**New Timeline**

**Goals/Strategies**

**Land Use Survey – Seward**

**Comprehensive Plan Survey – Carlisle**

**Review of Regulations**

**Mapping – IDing active agriculture**