



**Progress Report
Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan Development
Towns of Seward and Carlisle
August 31, 2009**

Next Meeting: Monday, September 28, 2009, 7 PM, Schoharie County Planning Department

Seward Comprehensive Plan Survey

The Town of Seward working with the Schoharie County Planning Department Agency (SCPDA), has sent out its land use survey. A total of 1,600 surveys were sent out. The return-by date is October 5th. Brian Fleury of SCPDA's GIS department is creating a data base into which the survey results will be entered once the surveys have been returned.

Carlisle Comprehensive Plan Survey

The results of the 2004 survey have been given to Laura Ten Eyck, field consultant for American Farmland Trust (AFT). Laura is in the process of updating the draft analysis with the current information.

Farmer and Landowner Interviews

The interview summaries for both towns are complete. Two more interviews remain to be done in Seward. Laura will be conducting an interview with Raymond and Deborah Steidle on September 9th. Laura is continuing to try to make contact with a final candidate from the interview list. If Laura can't schedule an interview with one of the remaining candidates by the end of September she will ask the Seward committee for additional alternate candidates. Once these interviews have been completed the summary will be updated accordingly.

Goals

The committee has continued its discussion of goals and recommendations to be made in the plan. At the August meeting Laura presented the committee with another revision of the draft of the goals based on changes requested at the July meeting. The committee reviewed the draft and made further revisions. At the September meeting Laura will present the revised goals to be finalized. The goals will be matched with recommendations made by the committee to date. At the September meeting the committee will continue the discussion of recommendations to achieve the goals.

Timeline

The extension for the completion of the plan has been submitted to New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. Carlisle's Town Board voted on approving the request for an extension and would like an estimate of how much additional time will be required. The

committee plans to add four months to the current timeline allowing themselves two additional meetings to discuss recommendations and two additional meetings to do revisions.

Maps & Inventories

The committee continues to work on the maps identifying active agricultural land in the town. Carlisle is still in the process of finalizing its inventory. The Carlisle committee has been unable to meet to work on finalizing mapping and inventories but will do so as soon as possible. Seward has completed a draft of their map identifying active agricultural land and is in the process of verifying information.

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