



**Progress Report
Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan Development
Towns of Seward and Carlisle
September 29, 2009**

Next Meeting: Monday, October 26, 2009, 7 PM, Schoharie County Planning Department

Seward Comprehensive Plan Survey

Completed land use surveys are coming in. To date 351 surveys have been returned. A total of 1,600 surveys were sent out. The return-by date is October 5th. Tabulation of the survey results is underway.

Farmer and Landowner Interviews

All interviews for both towns have been completed. Laura Ten Eyck, field consultant for American Farmland Trust, will update the interview summaries with insights gleaned from the last interviews.

Goals & Recommendations

At the request of the committee Laura has organized the goals under four headings: support agriculture at the town level; foster economic opportunities for agriculture; educate people (farmers and non farmers alike) about agriculture; protect natural resources and open space.

Potential recommendations discussed by the committee have been listed under the related headings. The committee is in the process of reviewing these recommendations, making further recommendations. The committee plans to break down its recommendations into recommendations that can be accomplished at the town level and those that must be addressed at the county level.

There has been a great deal of discussion regarding potential for the Richer's feed mill complex, in Central Bridge, which closed last year. Michele Strobeck, agriculture marketing specialist for the Schoharie County Department Planning Agency (SCPDA) will update the committee on its status at the next meeting.

Timeline

The committee has revised the project timeline allowing themselves two additional meetings to discuss recommendations and two additional meetings to do revisions. According to the new timeline the committee hopes to complete the plans in April of 2010. The deadline for completion of the plans with the extensions is February 26, 2011. The committee will continue to revise their timeline as needed.

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 planning board reviewed the map provided by the SCPDA and updated the mapping of active agricultural land. Brian Fleury, GIS specialist for SCPDA will create a new map with this information. Seward has completed a draft of their map identifying active agricultural land and is giving their findings to the county so the map can be updated.

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