

**TOWN OF WRIGHT
AGRICULTURAL
COMMITTEE**

AGRICULTURAL AND FARMLAND PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

February 4, 2009

MARK STOLZENBURG
Chair
872-0679

Committee members Present:

Also Present:

VICKY MCCAFFREY
872-1295

Mark Stolzenburg
Ed Thornton
Ray Lurhman
Jeri Murray,
Reta Youngs
Vicki McCaffery

Laurie Ten Eyck, Field Consultant, AFT
Jean Burton, secretary
Lillian Bruno, Schoharie County Planner
John Sancharico, town board Liaison

JERI MURRAY
295-7280

Review of minutes of December 17th meeting – Motions to approve, 1st: Ray 2ed: Jeri - All approved

ED THORNTON
295-7463

Discussion of old business: Laurie encouraged committee members to review the Interview Summary and Comprehensive Plan Survey Analysis handed out in December. She asked that committee members share with her any feedback on these documents.

KARL WESTPHAL
872-1687

Publicity for public meeting, Lillian reported that post cards went out to all town citizens, and announcements were made in the TJ and American Eagle. The town newsletter also announced the meeting.
Preparation for Public meeting—At the last town board meeting John requested town board attendance at the 2/12 meeting. Committee members agreed to bring refreshments.

RETA YOUNGS
872-0919

Agenda for Public meeting The agenda for the 2/12 meeting is to present the committee's progress on **defining agriculture** and tentative **goals of the plan**. Public reaction and feedback will be very valuable. The committee reviewed the **definition** from the Comprehensive plan as well as a shorter version proposed by Laurie. These were compared to the Ag and Farm Markets definition. After much discussion it was agreed to use the Comprehensive Plan definition with a clause referencing the Ag and Farm Markets definition, which is constantly updated and very lengthy (3-4 pages) and inclusive.

JOHN SANCHIRICO
TOWN BOARD
872-9287

One concern in using the Ag and Farm Markets definition is the large scale noted there and the minimums of income and acreage. These last two issues may be discussed further. It was noted that the purpose of the committee settling on a definition is to set forth what the committee and town is trying to protect through this project.

RAYMOND LURHMAN
872-2375

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Goals: The committee reviewed several goals that Laurie proposed after considering the committee's discussions and other town's projects Laurie presented several possible goals. The committee overall liked these goals. They decided to present these goals at the public meeting for further brainstorming and feedback (verbally or in writing) from town citizens. The following is a list of goals.

- 1: Encourage Town's Existing Farmers
- 2: Attract New Farmers to Town
- 3: Cultivate Next Generations of Farmers
- 4: Retain Critical Mass of Agricultural Land
- 5: Educate Public about Agriculture
- 6: Encourage Agra-tourism
- 7: Encourage New Economic Opportunities for Farmers

The committee encouraged committee members to present these ideas and plans rather than Laurie as a consultant. Mark will provide an introduction and committee members will then assist in facilitating a discussion. Laurie will keep a list of ideas on newsprint. The committee agreed to use time limits on each topic so that both the definition and goals are covered.

Mapping: Reta, Karl, and Mark worked on maps. They compared aerial maps and assessment maps and identified all parcels but several that need further clarification. This amended map will be enlarged and then available at the public meeting for further comment and clarifications.