

**TOWN OF WRIGHT  
AGRICULTURAL  
COMMITTEE**

**AGRICULTURAL AND FARMLAND PRESERVATION COMMITTEE**

**July 22, 2009**

**MARK STOLZENBURG**  
*Chair*  
872-0679

VICKY MCCAFFREY  
872-1295

JERI MURRAY  
295-7280

ED THORNTON  
295-7463

KARL WESTPHAL  
872-1687

RETA YOUNGS  
872-0919

JOHN SANCHIRICO  
TOWN BOARD  
872-9287

RAYMOND LURHMAN  
872-2375

***Committee Members Present:***

Mark Stolzenburg

Jeri Murray

Reta Youngs

Karl Westphal

Ed Thornton

Vicki McCaffrey

***Also Present:***

Laura Ten Eyck, American Farmland Trust

John Sanchirico, Town Board

Lillian Bruno, Schoharie Co. Planning

Michelle Strobeck, Co. Ag Marketing Specialist

John Brennan, NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets

***Review of minutes from the June 24 meeting. Ed moved to approve, seconded by Reta, all approved.***

John Brennan had some comments and suggestions for the committee as far as drafting the plan. He strongly urged the committee to narrow down the recommendations in the plan to only those that are the top priorities, but to be very specific in each recommendation as to who should be responsible for it, in what time frame and how much it will likely cost. He said that we should also consider what other governmental agencies at the state and county level might be able to do to help accomplish our goals for agriculture in the Town of Wright. He suggested that the committee use an outline to help see the big picture of how the plan is organized. He will be passing along to Laura a checklist that he has created that will be used by the NYS Commissioner of Ag. and Markets in approving these local farmland plans. The Town of Parma plan (Monroe County) is currently the first ag plan ready for review by the Commissioner. John reminded the committee to be creative in considering where funding could come from and not be constrained by current government budget short-falls.

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Lillian and Michelle brought the committee up to date on the status of the draft of the economic impacts section of the plan. They would like to hear any comments that committee members have on this draft as it is included in the total plan draft that Laurie has handed out tonight. Lillian, Michelle and David Cox will be meeting before the August meeting to finalize the economic impacts section.

VICKY MCCAFFREY  
872-1295

The committee made some final edits to the ag land use map. The parcels that are currently in ag use in the Town total 11,512 acres. The committee agreed that the final map should show ag lands overlaid on the ag soils map. The gas pipelines in the Town should be included as well.

JERI MURRAY  
295-7280

Prioritizing farmland: The committee discussed several ideas for prioritizing ag lands in the Town. 1) Look at the lowest priorities first to eliminate them. For example Ostrander Road and Benninger Road where the soils are poor and the land has already been extensively subdivided. 2) There are basically three active ag areas in the Town : northwest, east central, and south of the Fox Creek. 3) What areas are left after we consider 1 and 2? Lillian will try to make some sense of this and map it for the next meeting.

ED THORNTON  
295-7463

KARL WESTPHAL  
872-1687

Draft Plan: The committee reviewed briefly the draft plan that Laura presented tonight. The committee members will in the coming days read it in more detail so as to get comments to Laura for the next version keeping in mind that we want only high priority recommendations in the final plan. Some data and more mundane text not related to the "meat" of the plan will likely be included but as appendices to make the plan more readable and to-the-point .

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