

AGRICULTURAL AND FARMLAND PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 24, 2009

Committee members Present:

Mark Stolzenburg
Vicky McCaffrey
Reta Youngs
Karl Wesphal

Also Present

Laurie TenEyeck, Field Consultant, American Farmland Trust
Jean Burton, Secretary
Lillian Bruno, Schoharie County Planner

Approval for October minutes was 1st by Vicky, 2ed by Karl, all approved.

Discuss December Meeting Date – All agreed to keep it on 12/23 as planned.

Review Draft Plan – Laura had emailed committee members a draft of the final report. This was reviewed page by page. Laura noted that a similar basic text with maps would be used for the public hearing. When the plan goes before the town board it will be complete and bound. Laura took note of comments from the committee to incorporate these into the next draft. Any development in the Karst area will trigger the SEQR reviews. Much of the town's prime agricultural lands lie in the Karst area. Laura is looking for the maps to show Karst, prime soils and Barton Hill watershed areas. Lillian will facilitate these maps. The county Health Dept. has regulations regarding site development in Karst areas. Laura will look into how/if these apply. Mark noted that even in areas that are not agricultural, development is not advised due to Karst.

Set Date for Public Hearing – Presently the committee is targeting mid January so that the Dec meeting needs to finalize basic text. The hearing would be akin to the committee's informational meetings. Advanced publicity and availability of document is needed. If major comments/revisions are requested, then a second hearing may be needed. Town Board could have their own public hearing if they decided to do so. The amount of public input to date may minimize the need for major revisions and additional public hearings. The plan needs to be available in various places 30 days prior to the first public hearing. At the 12/23 meeting, a date for a public hearing will be set-probably mid February - and a draft approved by the committee. The draft will be posted on the town web site and available in other locations.

Next Meeting for Agriculture and Farmland Protection Committee:
DECEMBER 23, 2009