



Progress Report

Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan

Town of Wright

5/20/09

prepared by Laura Ten Eyck, Field Consultant, American Farmland Trust

Next Meeting: May 27, 2009, 7:00 PM, Wright Town Hall, Gallupville, NY

Mapping, Inventory of Agriculture, Prioritizing Agricultural Land

At their May meeting the committee will turn in their finalized maps to Lillian Bruno, planner with the Schoharie County Planning Department Agency and she and David Cox, of the county Cornell Cooperative Extension will use the data to begin work on their analysis of the economic impact of agriculture in the town. They hope to have information ready to present at the June meeting.

Lillian has forwarded an e mail to the committee with John Brennan of NYSDAM outlining strategies for prioritizing agricultural land in need of protection. The committee will discuss how they want to handle this step at their June meeting.

Schoharie County Soil and Water Conservation District

In the interest of saving time Mark Stolzenburg, committee chair, and Laura Ten Eyck decided to invite the committee to attend the presentation by Stephen Hoerz, district manager of the county Soil and Water Conservation District at Seward and Carlisle's joint executive agriculture and farmland protection plan committee meeting held on Monday, May 18th. Only Lillian Bruno was able to attend but she will relay the information and materials distributed to the Wright committee at the May meeting.

Schoharie County Website

The committee has agreed to place minutes and progress reports on the Town of Wright's page on the Schoharie County website. Laura has written an introduction to the town's agriculture and farmland protection plan project which will also appear on the website once the committee has the opportunity to review and approve it.

Recommendations & Drafting of Plan

The committee has been in deep discussion over the types of recommendations that should be made by the plan since March. They have reviewed recommendations suggested in AFT's Farmland Protection Toolbox and Regulation Review as well as at the public meetings. They have also conceived of and debated recommendations of their own. Laura has taken extensive notes during these conversations has distilled recommendations put forth by the committee to date in a document for the committee to review at their May meeting. Although new ideas will continue to be welcomed the discussion at the May meeting will close the recommendation development phase. Laura will then begin compiling the first draft of the plan. The deadline for adoption of the plan is January 7, 2010.

NEW YORK STATE OFFICE
112 Spring Street Suite 207 Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
Tel: (518) 581- 0078 Fax: (518) 581-0079
www.farmland.org