

Town of Farmington Agriculture Advisory Committee

January 21, 2010

Meeting Notes

Attending: Pete Maslyn- Chair, Royal Purdy, Bob Gerlock, Jim Ochterski, John Marvin

Guests: Jim Gray (pending committee member)

Excused: Don Jones, Dick McClurg

1) Organizational items:

Two appointed members of Ag Advisory Committee not regularly attending meetings; one will formally step down and Jim Gray expects to fill that vacancy. The other appointed position is pending.

Minutes for meetings of Ag Advisory Committee have been generally documented by Vice-chair J. Ochterski. Since the committee does not meet on a rigid monthly schedule, it might be difficult to have a Town staff person record minutes, but it would provide the most proper communication to the Planning board and Town Board. This is an opportunity to review all of the Committee by-laws.

2) Application for state grant funds for Town planning for agriculture

P. Maslyn reviewed the status of the grant application, and results of the meeting on December 21 with Supervisor Ted Fafinski and Planner Ron Brand. Both appear supportive and this support for the application was re-asserted at the Town Board workshop on January 12, 2010. The Committee reviewed the draft resolution completely and all matters related to the application, budget, and timelines. All these seem acceptable and complete. Discussion of previous planning efforts in the Town and expectation that this project, if funded, will be a major incentive for the Town to plan for agriculture in a methodical way that involved the residents and farmland owners alike. Discussion about who would qualify as a consultant if this project is funded, and what criteria the Committee would use – planning history, ability to gather meaningful input, interest in ag development to augment land protection policies, and willingness to perform a customized scope of work, not a boilerplate plan.

Motion made to accept and submit the application made by J. Marvin, 2nd by B. Gerlock.

Unanimous vote in favor; P. Maslyn and R. Purdy expect to attend Town Board meeting to complete the process.

4) Comprehensive Plan map review

Using a color-coded map provided by Town Planning, the Committee reviewed the map parcel by parcel to update areas with active agriculture land versus vacant land. Generally the map is accurate, but major blocks of active farmland were identified by consensus and personal experience with different parcels. Property line locations seem accurate as well, and speak to Farmington's older history of parcelization of some larger tracts of wet forests, to provide access to hunting, ice, and other purposes.

5) Farmers Market development in Farmington

The Ag Advisory Committee is aware of the Chamber of Commerce's interest in developing a central Farmers Market, perhaps on Route 96 near the four corners (Rt. 96 and Rt. 332 intersection). The Committee is willing to assist in this effort as needed.

Next meeting: Scheduled for February 18, 2010; 7:30 PM Town of Farmington Hall (pending items for agenda) OR March 18, 2010 for updates.

Submitted by J. Ochterski
Vice-Chair