

## **Town of Farmington Agriculture Advisory Committee**

September 18, 2008

Meeting Notes

Attending: Pete Maslyn- Chair, John Marvin, Don Jones, Jim Ochterski, Dick McClurg, Royal Purdy

### **1) Reviewing letter drafted to Town Planning Board:**

Letter sends an appropriate message about the interest of the Ag Advisory Committee to take a stronger role in Comprehensive Plan input, develop an application for Municipal Farmland Planning grants. It would be good for the Town and the farms in Farmington for the Ag Committee to have input to the Comprehensive Plan redevelopment. The Committee should receive notification when land with an agriculture assessment goes out of production and becomes a non-agriculture use - either idle or converted fully to non-ag use. The main concern of the committee are those lands in the county's Ag District or has an agriculture assessment.

The next step is to alert the Planning Board to the initiatives of interest to the Ag Advisory Committee.

### **2) Drainage issues**

Discussion of what is known about the drainage work on the south side of the FL Race Track.

### **3) Agriculture Advisory Committee composition**

The Committee reviewed who is officially appointed to the committee. All none positions are filled:

Pete Maslyn- Chair, Bob Gerlock, Rick Padgham, John Marvin, Don Jones, Jim Ochterski - Vice-chair, Dick McClurg, Royal Purdy, and Doug Payne.

### **4) Farm development in Farmington:**

Discussion of horse farms and their growth (52 farms with horses).

Discussion of USDA slaughter facilities in the region and efforts to attract and facilitate the location of one. GL Kraut is interested in leasing Farmington land if available for cabbage production to increase tonnage available to plant. Discussion of farm land leasing rates. There may be development of ag-related composting facilities for food waste and / or horse manure. Some preliminary discussion of a possible farm market at the FL RaceTrack, but not much is known.

5) Next meeting: Scheduled for October 23, 2008; 7:30 PM Town of Farmington Hall