

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY FARMLAND PROTECTION BOARD MINUTES

Wednesday, December 1st, 2010

PRESENT: Fred Croscut, Jay Gould, Virginia Carlberg, Brian Aldrich, Steve Kimball, Frank Walker, Jim Joy, William Daly and Dennis Rak

ABSENT: Alice Growley

OTHERS: Donald McCord (Planning)

MINUTES	There were no minutes requiring approval.
PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR	None
NEW BUSINESS: Town of Pomfret Agricultural Protection Plan Review	<p>Don McCord reported that the Town of Pomfret has revised their proposed Agricultural Protection Plan from the original version reviewed by the Board in March of 2010. Don said that the Town's consultant had worked with the New York State Office of Agriculture and Markets to revise the draft plan. The Transition Zone that was a concern in the original draft has been substantially reduced and the Town has passed a law that restricts lateral water line connections in State Agricultural Districts containing active farming.</p> <p>Brian Aldrich said that he was concerned about the commercial zone along Route 60 and the impact on areas that may contain existing businesses. The group reviewed the vision map and the current zoning map and concluded that the issue had been addressed. Dennis Rak said that the proposed transition zones seem to make sense.</p> <p>On a motion to approve the Town of Pomfret Agricultural Protection Plan as presented by Dennis Rak, with a second from Brian Aldrich, the Board unanimously approved the Plan with Jim Joy abstaining.</p>
Town of Dunkirk Proposed Zoning Law	<p>Steve Kimball opened the floor for discussion on the proposed Town of Dunkirk Local Law regarding garbage and farm waste.</p> <p>Jay Gould said that he thought the Town was trying to address two unrelated items within the same law and that it didn't work.</p> <p>Dennis Rak said that "Section Two" requires that smells not be offensive. However they never determine what "offensive" is. That could be a problem.</p> <p>Frank Walker felt that the proposed law was overly restrictive to agriculture.</p> <p>The Board discussed the potential unintended consequences of the law such as adding costs to the local processors and driving them out of the area. Fred Croscut said that Chautauqua County has lost more than one good farmer due to environmental restrictions that were overbearing.</p> <p>The Board requested that Don McCord draft a letter to the Town and NYS Ag & Markets expressing their opposition to the proposed law with the understanding that the Board supports farmers who practice BMPs.</p>
Agricultural District Update	<p>Don McCord informed the Board that Ron Mead from NYS Ag & Markets had been here in October to inspect State Agricultural Districts 12, 1 & the proposed District 2. Districts 12 & 1 have now been certified and the updated maps will be posted on the County's GIS site.</p> <p>Don said that the letters notifying landowners of potential changes in District 2 went out today. District # 2's local review should be completed by the end of the first quarter of 2011.</p>
Other Items	None
Next Meeting	No meeting was scheduled.