

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY FARMLAND PROTECTION BOARD MINUTES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010

PRESENT: Fred Croscut, Jay Gould, Virginia Carlberg, Brian Aldrich, Steve Kimball, Frank Walker

ABSENT: William Daly, Dennis Rak, Alice Growley and Tom Davenport

OTHERS: Donald McCord (Planning)

MINUTES	There were no minutes requiring approval.
PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR	None
NEW BUSINESS:	Don McCord explained that District # 1 –Westfield / Ripley / Portland had passed through the Legislative Committee and was expected to pass the full Legislature this evening.
Overview of District Review Status	Don said that there had been limited public concerns regarding the first consolidation process. If successful, three pre-existing district will become one.
Town of Pomfret Agricultural Protection Plan -Comprehensive Plan Review	<p>Don reported that as a result of the Town of Pomfret's willingness to incorporate a farmland protection plan into the structure of the Town's Comprehensive Plan under a New York State Ag & Markets grant program, the County Farmland Protection Board would be required to review the plan.</p> <p>During the Board's discussions the following issues were raised regarding the draft plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) The proposed transition zone surrounding the Village of Fredonia's boundary has large areas of prime soils that exist in the unique micro-climate where grapes grow. The proposed zone would convert these lands to high density R-1 zoning districts and a highway commercial district. The Board recognized that some areas of prime soil have already been consumed by the Route 60 businesses and the Fredonia High School property. However, the Board felt that the zone along the eastern side of Fredonia was extended to far to the south and the entire zone along the southern and western boundaries would impact farmland. Additionally, the recommendation to consider extending waterlines into the transition zone was believed to threaten these valuable soils. <p>Upon comparing the soils map provided and the future land use map the Board unanimously voted to disapprove the current proposal and recommend the Town reconsider the proposed transition zone and the recommendations.</p>
Draft County Farmland Protection Board Bylaws	<p>Don presented the Draft County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board Bylaws to the Board. The Board discussed the Draft Bylaws and suggested the following changes be made:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Stagger terms of active blocks of appointed members;2) Add wording so that the Secretary's position is filled by Planning and Economic development staff;3) Review the term limit provision. <p>The Board unanimously recommended that the Draft Bylaws be forwarded to the County Legislature for consideration as modified.</p>
Agricultural District Protections	Don McCord informed the Board that he had contacted Bob Summers and discussed the protection of alternative agricultural ventures. Bob said that the operation must be directly linked to the farm operation. Farm by products can be utilized for aftermarket products if the farmer is the producer. However, others can not purchase the product and then claim to be covered by the law. Nor can groups of farmers come together and form a separate operation and be covered by the Ag Law and its protections.
Other Items	None
Next Meeting	No meeting was scheduled.

