

***Town of Ballston Farmland Protection Plan***  
***Committee Meeting***  
**Minutes, January 27, 2011**

1. **Attendance:** Andy VanVorst, Bob Pustolka, Joan Pott, Chuck Curtiss, Laura Conrad, Frieda Garrison, Garth Ellms, Jeremy Knight, Cliff Garrison, Polly Windels, Steve Stark, Cliff Samson, Dan Shorey, H.K. “Bud” Adams, Jr.
2. **Meeting called to order at 7:02pm**  
Copies of Agenda, Open Forum Feedback, and T/O Charlton FLPP distributed.
3. **Review of Open Forum feed back**
  - a. several points were repeated/primary concerns expressed
    1. rural character of the town must be protected
    2. agriculture is the key to maintaining our rural character
    3. must find ways to make farming financially feasible; land must be as valuable in agricultural production as it is in development
    4. committee will refer to and be mindful of residents’ and landowners’ input!
4. **Reviewed, prioritized, and assigned Sub-Committee Tasks as follows:**
  1. Develop Mission Statement – Polly, Frieda, Joan – draw drafts, next meeting committee will finalize (Polly volunteered to do press releases)
  2. Define Agriculture Lands – consult Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance
  3. Brief history of Agriculture in Ballston and Saratoga County – Bud, Dan, Laura (consult Town Historian)
  4. Identify types of ag taking place currently – Frieda (contact CCE)
  5. Identify current inventory
  6. Identify agricultural soil types – Frieda (contact CCE)
  7. Identify lands that could be reclaimed for ag – Frieda (contact CCE)
  8. Analyze data and identify current ag threats, opportunities, fiscal and zoning impacts on ag. (Lengthy discussion within Committee)
  9. Town development trends and pressures
  10. Survey agriculture landowners
  11. Seek community input
  12. Farmland Protection Strategies
  13. Prepare Draft Farmland Protection Plan
  14. Public Meeting for input
  15. Submit Plan Final Draft to Town Board
5. **General comments and discussion:**
  - a. Brief overview of Planning and Zoning Conference held January 26<sup>th</sup> in Saratoga Springs
  - b. concerns shared about Wetlands rules and regs/DEC and ACOE and impact on ag
  - c. anecdotal inputs about Ballston’s rural history