

***Town of Ballston Farmland Protection Plan
Committee Meeting
Minutes, March 17, 2011
7:00pm, Town Hall***

1. **Attendance: Committee:** Joan Pott, Chairman, Andy VanVorst, Bob Pustolka, Laura Conrad, Frieda Garrison, Garth Ellms, Dick Voehringer, Jeremy Knight (Town Council Liaison), (Absent – Chuck Curtiss);
Community present: Polly Windels, Steve Stark, Cliff Samson, Arnold Palmer, Alf Garrison, Steve and Gail Merchant, Dan Shorey, Jessica Bennett (Ballston Journal)
Guest Speakers:
David R. Wood, David R. Wood, Owner/Operator of Eildon Tweed Farm
Town of Charlton Agricultural Task Force Committee
Town of Charlton Farmland Protection Plan Committee
Peter H. Hotaling, Town Assessor, Town of Ballston
2. **Meeting called to order at 7:02pm**
3. **Sub-committee Reports:** brief updates; decision to workshop Tasks #1-10 prior to April committee meeting so as not to delay the evening's speakers.
4. In response to a request made at the February meeting for historical information about Agriculture in the Town, Dan Shorey gave the committee copies of historic documents relating to agriculture in the Town of Ballston/New York State/Saratoga County, said documents dated from 1891 to 1914, including advertisements for cow mangers, tree grafting, barb wire fence, and sweet corn seed, as well as a flier announcing a "Farmers' Institute" to be held in the Lecture Hall in Burnt Hills, NY, March 4-5, 1904 and conducted by Edward VanAlstyne of NY State Department of Agriculture.
5. **Welcome: David R. Wood** – presented an overview of Charlton's process in developing their Farmland Protection Plan and discussed strategies to keep farmers in farming: "Make it advantageous to farm", Ag District Laws, Right to Farm Laws, exempt farms from Special Tax Districts levies. Lengthy discussion, questions and answers involving all in attendance.
6. **Welcome: Peter H. Hotaling** – shared experience in various towns, overview of agricultural exemptions/districts in Town of Ballston, answered many questions and fielded a discussion of property assessment and farms in our town.
7. Next Committee Meeting: Thurs., April 21, 2011, 7:00pm, Town Hall
8. Adjourn 9:00pm