

Town of Ballston Farmland Protection Plan

Committee Meeting

Minutes

Thursday, April 21, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

Ballston Town Hall

1. Attendance – Joan Pott, Chairperson; Jeremy Knight, Town Council Liaison, Richard Voehringer, Garth Ellms (Absent: Andy VanVorst, Laura Conrad, Frieda Garrison, Chuck Curtiss);
Community present: Arnold Palmer, Alf Garrison, Kim Ireland (Town Council), Scott Miller, John Jensen, Pete Eddy, Pat Southworth, Holly Vroman
2. Approve Minutes of last meeting - no quorum
3. Tasks 1-3 of original Task List
 - a. Mission Statement draft ready for approval
 - b. History of Ag in Ballston - Rick Reynolds' portion is complete
 1. Bob Pustolka offered idea to include as exhibit in the Plan a map of town from 30-50 years ago w/farms noted that no longer exist. Also, a list of 'lost' support businesses; i.e., tractor dealers, feed suppliers, etc. He has offered to assemble this.
 - c. Ag Soil Types/Ag Inventory-Map/Types of Ag currently in town
4. Reports on subcommittee assignments:
 - c. Numbers 8 through 10 above (reference current Zoning Ordinance & Comp Plan)
Identify lands that could be reclaimed for agriculture
Analyze data and identify current agriculture threats, opportunities, fiscal and comprehensive plan/zoning impacts on agriculture
Town development trends and pressures
Current regional planning
 - b. Number 11 - Develop survey questions/prepare draft
5. Proposed survey questions distributed, reviewed, and edited. Request additional inputs be sent to Chair at her email joanpott@gmail.com.
6. **Photo and Essay Contest** for school kids suggested by Holly Vroman.
 - b. Subcommittee forming for flier preparation and contact with school superintendents.
7. **June Flag Day Parade** – Polly Windels suggested FLPP prepare float to support T/O Ballston farms and Agriculture.
 - a. Garth said Ellms Trees will donate one of their flatbeds to carry the float. Jared Pott will haul it with Pott family Kubota tractor.
 - b. Polly Windels willing to hear sub-committee. Need additional volunteers.
8. Discuss request submitted to Town Board for Ag exemption from special tax Districts, how it impacts town/county/state, how it impacts the individual districts, how it impacts tax payers.
9. Town of Moreau also currently drafting a FLPP. John Arnold, current Pres. of Farm Bureau and dairy farmer/resident of Wilton, would be willing to join us for a briefing presentation/discussion at our next meeting relative to pressures/threats

to Agriculture in our County/State and ways our towns could cooperate in developing the FLPP's. May invite to speak.

10. Next Meeting: Thurs., May 19, 2011, 7:00, Town Hall Conference Room

11. Adjourn 8:45pm