

*Town of Ballston Farmland Protection Plan*

*Committee Meeting*

*Minutes*

Thursday, May 19, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

Ballston Town Hall

1. Attendance - Joan Pott, Chairperson; Richard Voehringer, Robert Pustolka, Laura Conrad. (Absent – Charles Curtiss, Garth Ellms, Andrew VanVorst, Frieda Garrison)  
Community present – Daniel Shorey, Steven Stark, Polly Windells, Arnold Palmer, Scott Miller, Jessica Bennett - Ballston Journal reporter.
2. Approve Minutes of March and April meeting
3. Tasks 1-3 of original Task List
  - a. Mission Statement draft ready for approval
  - b. History of Ag in Ballston
    1. Rick Reynolds' portion is complete.
    2. 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.  
Bob is working on this project.
  - c. Ag Soil Types/Ag Inventory-Map/Types of Ag currently in town – Frieda and Laura working on this.
4. Reports on subcommittee assignments:
  - a. 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 – Review survey questions and approve.**
5. **Photo and Essay Contest** for school kids suggested by Holly Vroman.
  - a. **form subcommittee**
6. **June Flag Day Parade** – Polly Windels suggested FLPP prepare float to support T/O Ballston farms and Agriculture.
  - a. Ellms Trees will donate one of their flatbeds to carry the float.  
Transport? Do we want to ask Tom Armer (draft horses) or Ken Plummer (oxen)
  - b. **Need Float committee.**
7. Request submitted to Town Board for Ag exemption from special tax  
Districts will be discussed and acted upon at June 7<sup>th</sup> Town Board meeting. Please attend to hear discussion and show support.

8. John Arnold, current Pres. of Farm Bureau and dairy farmer/resident of Town of Moreau, will be asked to attend June 7<sup>th</sup> Town Board meeting and speak to pressures/threats to Agriculture in our County/State. His town is also currently working on a FLPP.
9. Next Meeting: Thurs., June 16, 2011, 7:00, Town Hall Community Room
10. Adjourn