

Town of Ballston
Farmland Preservation and Protection Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2021, 7:00 pm

Attendance: Chair, Scott Draina; members Stephen Merchant and Joan Pott; guests Kathy Knight, Linda Voehringer, Zach Boekeloo, Kelly Jasinski. Absent: Councilman Chuck Curtiss

Meeting called to order by Chair, Scott Draina, at 7:30 pm

1. Various events in the farm community were discussed, as well as recent news articles.
2. The Supervisor asked the committee to seek new members. Awaiting the approval and appointment of the Town Board, FPP Committee welcomes Kathy Knight, Linda Voehringer, and Zachary Boekeloo (Mourningkill Farm).
 - a. Additional names proposed - Cliff Samson, Bill Clark, Ben Eldridge, Fred the Butcher, and Mr. Fortna
3. Supervisor Connolly phoned in to the meeting and was placed on conference call.
 - a. He gave a thorough explanation of the Town's proposed PDR program. Outlined possible options being considered, i.e., 5-acre lot size, not 2 acre, methods for increased density; benefits to landowners'; benefits to builders
 - b. He detailed proposed use of County and PILOT money available to fund it.
 - c. Tasked FPP Comm. with creating a committee to prioritize parcels for inclusion in program.
 1. As FPP Comm. has done this for the TDR program, the process, criteria, and prior lists are available from which to work.
 2. Supervisor Connolly volunteered to go door-to-door to encourage landowners' participation.
 3. FPP Comm. will seek input from Saratoga Plan, Saratoga Co. Soil and Water for prioritization process.
 - a. Some criteria are:
 - prime soils;
 - forested; wetland;
 - adjacent to already preserved parcels;
 - unique flora and fauna; historical significance
4. Scott will get back to Supervisor with names for Prioritization Committee, and he chose to offer the whole FPP Comm.
 - a. Town PDR Program is VOLUNTARY for landowners.

5. The additional tasks of the committee outlined in the FLPP Plan have been sidelined by Court battles over water in the Ag Dist., adoption of the TDR Program delayed 4 years, until affirmative vote 2019, etc., have taken priority. The FPP Comm. is determined to accomplish those other tasks.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Pott