

**ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL AND FARMLAND PROTECTION BOARD**

Public Safety Complex, 2nd Floor, 49 ½ Court Street
Canton, New York 13617-1169

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DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, December 6, 2018

2nd Floor Conference Room, Public Safety Complex, 49 ½ Court Street, Canton

I. Call to Order

A. Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum. Andrews called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. **Members present:** P. Ames, R. Andrews, D. Forsythe, B. Green, J. Greenwood, S. McKnight, R. Sapp, J. TeRiele, A. Tubbs and K. Zimmerman. **Members absent:** D. Fisher. **Staff present:** M. Larson. **Others present:** Larry Denesha, County Legislator District 6 and Patrick Kelly, St. Lawrence County IDA.

Andrews welcomed Legislator Denesha to the meeting and asked all those present to please introduce themselves.

B. Adoption of the Agenda. The meeting agenda was adopted by consensus.

C. Approval of the Minutes. The October 4, 2018 meeting minutes were unanimously adopted (Greenwood/TeRiele).

II. Old Business

A. Cultivating Careers in Agriculture – In Service. Andrews asked that a copy of the in-service packet be given to County Legislator Joe Lightfoot, and asked if County Legislators were invited to participate. Larson replied yes, and said invitations were delivered to each legislator’s mailbox in the Board Office, and noted Denesha attended the event, as well as a couple of legislative candidates. Larson added participants recommended in their survey responses to hold the in-service for high school students. Ames said a similar event will be held for 7th and 8th grade students to tour Adon Farms which includes a variety of information stations for students to visit. Ames said the event attracts approximately 200 students. Andrews asked whether the event should continue. Members of the board agreed to a future discussion about whether to schedule the in-service again.

- B. Smart Solar Siting Forum.** Larson reported 70 persons participated in the event and summarized who delivered presentations. A discussion ensued about various solar arrays that may be established throughout the county.

III. New Business

- A. Farmer Tax Relief Information Session.** Ames said Cooperative Extension staff Betsy Hodge is helping coordinate the event, which will be held from 10:30 to noon on Tuesday, January 8th in order to accommodate a January 15th deadline for tariff relief applications to the Farm Service Agency. Ames and Green identified presenters and topics that will be delivered at the event, which include: Kelsey O'Shea from the Regional Ag Team, Green from the County Real Property Tax Office, and CPA Amy Moulton who will review federal income tax credits.

IV. Reports

- A. Board of Legislators.** Forsythe reported mid-term election results allowed the Republicans to retain a majority in the County Legislature, and said the County is in good fiscal shape. Forsythe said the new Board will hold an organizational meeting on January 2nd, and felt the County on the whole is on the right track.
- B. Cornell Cooperative Extension.** Ames reported Cooperative Extension held their annual dinner in October, and recognized Larson as a 'Friend of Extension.' Ames also distributed copies of Cooperative Extension's annual report, as well as the annual report for the North Country Regional Ag Team. Ames said Leigh Rodriguez's term as a Cooperative Extension Board member ended, and new members joining the Board are organic dairy operator Bob Zufall and Nancy Bedlam, owner and operator of Kaneb Orchards. Ames listed a variety of upcoming programs including a Maple Expo in Gouverneur, and mental health training session for staff by Farm Net scheduled for February 28th.
- C. Industrial Development Agency.** Kelly reviewed recent ag-related business activities by the IDA, including a proposed slaughter facility in Brier Hill, a soy processing facility in Massena, and the repurposing of industrial buildings for a covered greenhouse operation. Kelly also noted SUNY Canton is creating a CDL training program.
- D. Real Property.** Green said the office is preparing tax bills for a January 1st mailing, and reported the office is looking to consolidate electronic mailings for large land holdings.
- E. Soil and Water Conservation District.** Dulanski reported on Round 24 of non-point source pollution prevention grants. One storage facility is complete, and another is under construction. Dulanski reported the County Forester identified the presence of the Emerald Ash Borer at the Massena Golf Course, and said the infestation may have begun as early as five years ago. Dulanski explained the process of mitigating infested trees: they are cut, chipped and cured on site for two years. Dulanski also reported SWCD monies were spent

by the County to assist with the implementation of a DEC Septic Repair/Replacement Program.

V. Other Items

A. Announcements. A discussion ensued about working with County Emergency Management Services to prepare an inventory of available equipment to respond to spill events by farm vehicles. There was consensus that such a resource is needed for the County's 911 dispatch center.

B. Correspondence. None.

C. Next Meeting Date. The next meeting for the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board is Thursday, February 7, 2019 at 7:30 pm in the 2nd floor conference room of the County Public Safety Complex in Canton.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned by consensus at 9:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Matilda Larson