

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, April 5, 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 7:32 pm. **Members present:** K. O’Neil for P. Ames, R. Andrews, D. Forsythe, B. Green, J. Greenwood, S. McKnight, R. Sapp, A. Tubbs and K. Zimmerman. **Members absent:** D. Fisher and J. TeRiele. **Staff present:** M. Larson. **Others present:** R. Dulanski, Soil and Water Conservation District and P. Kelly, Industrial Development Agency.

B. Adoption of the Agenda. Larson suggested the order of the agenda be reorganized to present reports ahead of new business so that Kelly may depart early to attend another meeting. The modified meeting agenda was adopted by consensus.

C. Approval of the Minutes. The December 7, 2017 meeting minutes were unanimously adopted (Greenwood/Forsythe).

II. Reports

A. Industrial Development Agency. Kelly highlighted recent ag-related projects the IDA has assisted with, including leasing space to Parker’s Maple in Canton and issuing a bond for a soybean facility in Massena in February. Kelly also said they are assisting a prospective winery in Norfolk, working with Clarkson University on an anaerobic digester project; assisting with the preparation of a marketing plan for Tri-Town Meats in Brasher; and helping Rhodes Davis secure financing to create a slaughter facility in Hammond. Kelly announced Steve Morris will serve as a new member to the IDA’s Board of Directors. Kelly also said the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy is now finalized, and will forward a digital copy of the report to members of the Ag and Farmland Protection Board.

B. Board of Legislators. Forsythe said the Board of Legislators unanimously voted Kevin Acres as Chair of the Board, and the County has realized savings by switching insurance programs. Forsythe said the County’s goal is to not borrow any funds for payroll purposes,

and the Board recently voted to make a contribution to the Bassmaster's tournament in Waddington.

- C. Real Property.** Green said the office had two retirements, and that he was part of a recent tour of Greenwood's farm coordinated by the Leadership Institute, and heard an impressive panel discussion on the technology that is used as a part a modern farm operation. Kelly departed at 7:55 pm.
- D. Soil and Water Conservation District.** Dulanski said the office completed ag valuation requests for 84 parcels totaling 5,200 acres, and recently hosted mandatory manure application training for CAFO farms with 48 people in attendance. Dulanski said the office is responsible for assisting with the preparation of environmental assessments for producers to qualify for the NY Grown and Certified program, which primarily consists of maple, livestock, and specialty crop producers. Dulanski also said the State awarded the County \$225,000 for an annual septic replacement program that will reimburse property owners 50% of eligible expenses up to \$10,000, and the County is awaiting final regulations for the program. Zimmerman added that thousands of parcels are eligible to participate; areas eligible for assistance include waterfront properties along the St. Lawrence River, the lower reach of the Raquette River, portions of the Little River, and Black Lake.
- E. Cooperative Extension.** O'Neil said the Cooperative Extension's youth programming has been going strong, and the Regional Ag Team has been very busy and has observed dairy producers experiencing stress and strife due to continued low milk prices. Winter education programming is coming to a close, and the BOCES Ag Academy is extending its reach into new school districts; is looking to include additional meaningful experiences for its students, including work with dairy goats, calves and sheep, and the installation of a milking parlor, cooler and dry storage for food production. An education orchard will be planted in partnership with the Soil and Water Conservation District, which will feature a variety of apple and pear trees bearing fruits of varying sizes and yields. The orchard will be planted by Ag Academy students, and will be used with different management styles, including pruning and pesticide/herbicide application workshops.

III. New Business

- A. Annual Review for Ag Districts 1 and 2.** Larson presented an overview of this year's annual requests for 10 parcels totaling 386.7 acres. The Board unanimously passed a recommendation for the Board of Legislators to accept all of this year's requested additions to Ag Districts 1 and 2 (Greenwood/Tubbs). Larson said a public hearing to receive comments on the AFPB's recommendation would be held in about two weeks.
- B. 2nd Careers in Ag In-Service.** Andrews suggested the event be held before Election Day in November to give County candidates and incumbents the opportunity to attend the tour. Members of the Board said the annual "Day at the Farm" event would be held at Stauffer's in September. Larson said she would work with Patti Fisher at BOCES about holding the event

in October. Suggested venues and catering services included Steve and Gail Fobare's Orchard in Rensselaer Falls.

- C. Precision Planting Technology Demonstrations.** Suggestions for on-site demonstrations included the no till grain drill, and a Johnny Seed planter. Sapp discussed visiting a greenhouse operation in Syracuse, and recommended following up with Amy Ivy and Ray Bowdish for more information.

IV. Old Business

- A. Suicide Prevention Workshop.** Larson summarized the training sessions held on March 19th and 28th for field staff and agribusiness representatives by ReachOut.

V. Other Items

- A. Announcements.** None.

- B. Correspondence.** Larson said the Planning Office received a letter dated February 27, 2018 from Adam Cook regarding his concerns about a future bypass around Potsdam and the adverse effects it would have on his farm operation.

- C. Next Meeting Date.** The next meeting for the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board is Thursday, October 4th, 2018 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 9:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Matilda Larson