

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

Public Safety Complex, 2nd Floor, 48 Court Street

Canton, New York 13617-1169

Tel: (315) 379-2292 • Fax: (315) 379-2252

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 6, 2023

2nd floor conference room, County Public Safety Complex

49 ½ Court Street, Canton

Zoom Meeting ID: 840 018 6372, Passcode: 2292

I. Call to Order

A. Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum. Andrews called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm, and asked all those present in the room, and via Zoom to please introduce themselves.

Members present: P. Ames, R. Andrews, L. Denesha, M. Finen (arrived at 6:30 pm), B. Green, J. Greenwood, M. Kelly, J. Pfothauer. **Absent:** D. Fisher, S. McKnight and J. TeRiele. A quorum was established.

Staff present: M. Larson. **Others present:** Raeanne Dulanski, Soil & Water Conservation District; Jason Mulford, NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets (via Zoom); and Kait Kulp.

B. Adoption of the Agenda. Larson reviewed the meeting agenda. The meeting agenda was unanimously adopted (Pfothauer/Greenwood).

C. Approval of the Minutes. The February 9, 2023 meeting minutes were unanimously adopted (Greenwood/Green).

II. Presentation

A. Overview of NYS Department of Ag and Markets Farmland Preservation Work Group. Jason Mulford, Manager for the Department's Division of Land and Water Resources, presented an overview of the Department's involvement with solar development across the state. Mulford reviewed the Notice of Intent process (under SEQR) for solar projects; the Department's mitigation guidelines for solar projects; an overview of the Department's Farmland Protection Working Group and the group's recommendations to protect farmland when siting additional arrays. A copy of Mulford's presentation is attached. Members of the Board thanked Mulford for his presentation. Mulford exited the meeting.

II. New Business

- A. Annual Review for Agricultural Districts 1 and 2.** Larson presented this year's requested additions with the use of an excel spreadsheet, maps and imagery. The Board unanimously recommended the Board of Legislators accept this year's requested additions to Ag Districts 1 and 2, which comprise of 9 parcels totaling 358.8 acres (Greenwood/Ames).
- B. 2023 Agricultural Tour.** Larson reviewed Ames' recommended locations for this year's tour: Never Tire Farm; Robert Zufall farm and solar array; Woodcrest Dairy, LLC and biodigester. Ames described Woodcrest Dairy's digester which is under construction. Larson recommended the date for the tour occur after the County Fair, and before the new school year.

III. Reports

- A. Updates from AFPB Members.** Denesha provided an update on recent activity by the Board of Legislators. Andrews referenced highlights from the Soil and Water Conservation District's written summary of recent activity. Ames provided an update on recent activity by Cooperative Extension. Larson reviewed highlights from the Industrial Development Agency's written summary, and said a digital copy of the agency's Annual Report was uploaded to Google Drive.

VI. Other Items

- A. Correspondence.** Larson reviewed recent correspondence from the Department of Agriculture and Markets concerning Notices of Intent and Project Determination letters for the following solar energy projects: Mead Road (letter dated 03/30/23), 29 Nickerson Road (02/20/23), 676 Old Canton Road (02/06/23), 295 State Highway 310 (03/21/23), and 5986 County Route 6 (02/10/23).
- B. Announcements.** None.
- C. Next Meeting Date.** The next Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board meeting will be Thursday, October 5, 2023 at 6:00 pm.

VII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm (Pfothenauer/Ames).

Respectfully submitted,

Matilda Larson