



Cattaraugus County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board

AGRICULTURAL & FARMLAND PROTECTION BOARD MEETING
County Center, Little Valley, NY
October 24, 2017

Board Members

David L. Zilker
Chairman

Barbara D. George
Vice Chairman

Crystal J. Abers

David Koch

Daniel Brown

Charles W. Couture

Brian Davis

James Finch

Daniel T. Martonis

Donald Telaak

Suzann Cushman

Ag Board Members Present: David Zilker, Chairman
Barbara George
David Koch
Charles Couture
James Finch
Donald Telaak

Ag Board Members Absent: Daniel Brown
Brian Davis
Crystal Abers
Daniel Martonis
Suzann Cushman

Planning Staff Present: Paul R. Bishop, Planner
Pat McGlew, Development Specialist
Tiffany Chiarilli, Keyboard Specialist

Guest: Kimberly LaMendola, Regional Development Coordinator,
Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board
Robert Shenk, Soil and Water Conservative District

Chairman Zilker called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Charles Couture moved with a second from Barbara George to approve the April 25, 2017 minutes as submitted. Motion was carried.



303 Court Street, Little Valley, NY 14755
Telephone: 716-938-2369 Fax: 716-938-2779
Web Page: <http://www.cattco.org>

INTRODUCTIONS

Paul Bishop introduced new members of the EDPT Department. Pat McGlew has joined the office as a Development Specialist and Tiffany Chiarilli as the Keyboard Specialist.

2018 7th ANNUAL FARMER-NEIGHBOR DINNER

Paul Bishop advised the date for the 2018 Farmer-Neighbor Dinner will be held April 11, 2018. The colors for this event will be different shades of grey. The board will need to start planning the menu soon. The Speaker for next year has not been chosen however a few names were recommended. Pat and Crystal had discussed having Anthony Schabloski, a science teacher from Cattaraugus Little Valley school. Bob Shenk recommended Scott Jordan, also a teacher from Cuba. Dave will be touring his facility in Allegany County in the future. Kim LaMendola recommended Josh Hazelton from Belfast. There was some discussion that the speaker should be from Cattaraugus County. Pat will speak with Crystal to see whom she would prefer.

2017 USDA CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Paul gave the timeline for the Census. New farmers were to register by June, the Census is to go out in December to be returned by February and results released in early spring. There is some concern that new farmers either did not know they had to register or just chose not to. Discussion on how to get the registrations complete included having survey days, putting the info in the Farm Bureau newsletter, and email blasts.

UPDATE TO THE CATTARAUGUS COUNTY AGRICULTURE AND FARMLAND PROTECTION PLAN

Paul gave update on plan and noted that our county can get funding. Pat added that there has been discussion on updating the plan using GIS instead of applying for grants. Data is provided by the Ag Census and recent numbers suggest that there is over \$99 million in Ag value in Cattaraugus County. Discussion ensued regarding J. Phillip Gottwals' availability to once again assist in plan updating/development. The current plan is on our website. Barb wonders if the recommendations in the current plan are outdated. Paul will make a list of recommendations in the current plan that have been achieved. Pat will look into the costs of updating and believes there is funding available.

AG TOUR 2017 / 2018

Paul reported that there was no tour this year. Crystal had reached out to various farms and only had one response. The tour is tentatively going to be held in either March or April and will try to include some maple businesses. James advised that going forward if there is help needed to contact farmers that we can reach out to Farm Bureau.

TRANSFER OR PURCHASE DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS

Paul mentioned that at the last meeting Brian wanted someone to attend a meeting to get an understanding of Transfer or Purchase of Development Rights. Pat has been working with a farm currently involved in the transfer of rights and gave a description of the difference between Transfer and Purchase. He stated that Transfer of Rights has not been very successful in NYS. Purchase of Rights has been more successful and there are programs available to help with that funding. NY allocated \$26 million last year for those programs. Pat also stated that due to differences in soil quality and other factors the rights are less expensive in our area as compared to other areas in the state. PDR funding is extremely competitive. NY Ag and Markets controls the grants given and they are offered every two years at this time but may change to annually. The next time funding is available will be May 2018. Pat also gave insight as to how the counties are ranked and what counties we would be competing with.

AGENCY UPDATES

Farm Bureau

Charles Couture reported on the annual meeting. They had Scott Jordan as a guest. At a previous meeting Rick Wright had attended in reference to Timber values on assessments. There have been questions raised regarding the assessment of standing timber; e.g. are assessors assigning value of the timber that is standing or the value once it has been logged? After discussion, there was general consensus that assessors in our county need more training on forestry and how to assess land with a timber value. David Koch noted that the county is gearing up to have all assessments done by county assessors after current assessors retire and that would be around 2019. At that point all assessments countywide would be equal.

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Suzann Cushman was not available, no update sent.

Soil and Water Conservation District

Bob Shenk gave updates on projects in South Dayton and Yorkshire that should be finished soon.

Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board

Kimberly LaMendola reported that Southern Tier West gave an update on the "farm to table" program. STW has teamed with CCE of Chautauqua County, NY Sustainable Agriculture Working Group, CCE of Allegany County, CCE of Cattaraugus County and American Farmland Trust's Farm to Institution Program to hold "mixers" to give information on these programs. There is additional information on the Fresh Local website. Kim also gave info on a new program called ACRES that will be forming a 3 county leadership program under NYSAWG.

OPEN FORUM

Paul Bishop received and read an email for Daniel Brown. Daniel has submitted his resignation. Dan held one of the “farmer” slots for the board and will need to have his seat filled by a farmer. Board members can send the email recommendations Paul Bishop. Once Paul has received recommendations and a candidate has been chosen the nomination comes from this board to the legislature. There was discussion on choosing a candidate that resides in a different part of the county, possibly a value added farmer, and someone who will make a commitment to attend meetings.

Paul also passed along a flyer for the NY Farmland Protection Forum the will be held Nov. 6, 2017 from 1-3pm at the Cornell Cooperative extension in Batavia. David and Pat to possibly attend.

There was a small discussion reviewing an email received pertaining to a bill in the Senate to trap, neuter, and release feral cats.

Pat passed along information about the NYS Veteran Farmer Grant program. There was discussion about who may benefit from this program. Kim and Dave advised that there have already been two veterans to receive funding, helping to create very successful farms in our county. James would like this information forwarded to our Veterans Office in Olean.

The 2017 NY Veterans in Agriculture Conference will be held Nov. 29, 2017 at the NYS Fairgrounds in Syracuse, NY.

Dave advised that there has been a lot of Windmill and Solar Farm talk in the area lately. There is land being looked at off of the 5 Mile for a possible Solar Farm. The projects are estimated at \$30 million for each project and there are 5 possible locations in our county. The project would be a 20 year lease for 140 acres each. Hillside locations, including forestlands, are being considered. Vital for any project are properly sized electrical transmission lines in close proximity to potential sites.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for January 9th or 16th at 1:00 pm at the County Center in Little Valley. Paul Bishop will send an email once date is confirmed.

ADJOURNMENT

James Finch moved to adjourn with a second by Don Telaak at 2:50 p.m. Motion was carried.