

July 23, 2013

DRAFT

Copake Agriculture and Farmland Protection Committee Meeting

Recording Secretary was excused. Co-Chair Edgar Masters asked Marcia Becker to take brief notes and report the Minutes.

In attendance: Members George Beneke, Edgar Masters, Bill Kiernan, Lia Babitch, Marcia Becker; Consultant Nan Stoltzenberg, Town Board Liaison Jeanne Mettler. Excused from the meeting were members Christie Hergaty and EJ Eisen.

Motion was made to approve the Minutes from June 25.

Discussion began with the subject of “processing.” In accordance with the Comprehensive Plan, it seems processing of fowl could be allowed in the R District within the Agricultural District with conditions such as, Site Plan Approval, limiting the number of fowl killed, that they be grown, butchered and sold on site, etc. Nan will research whether this use would be exempt from SEQR (State Environmental Quality Review). Bill Kiernan believed there is no need for large animal processing in Copake because there are existing facilities within 1 hour’s drive (Massachusetts, Connecticut).

Some specifics were discussed: maximum 5,000 per year processed; lot size must be a minimum of 7 acres; screening; state inspection of facility required; facility could not be burdensome to neighbors; set-back must be minimum 200 feet (same as current code for barns), state and federal licenses and permits required, inspection required only for facility used for more than 1000 fowl.

Nan’s hand out describing various kinds of slaughterhouses was discussed and is attached.

Examples of Farmer Survey were reviewed and suggestions to made to customize. For example: a question should be added asking the following (check which apply)

1. I am a farmer.
2. I am not a farmer but I lease land to a farmer.
3. I am a farmer and I rent land from others.

Bill Kiernan noted that in Copake there is a need for more agricultural land to lease or own. Nan will return the survey with amendments in 2 weeks. Goal is to approve at August meeting. Nan is working on the profile and updated inventory.

The Copake Agricultural Center info was distributed. It is a planned agricultural community located in the “fields” (Housing Resources land). George believes this land should never be fully built out because of existing Main St and Church St residences which will some day require updated potable water and septic systems.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

