

Farmland Protection Committee Minutes
October 22, 2013

Members Present:

Edgar Masters
George Beneke
Ejay Eisen
Bill Kiernan

Members Absent:

Lia Babitch
Christie Hegarty
Marcia Becker

Liaisons and others:

Jeanne Mettler (Town Board Liaison)
Nan Stolzenburg (Consultant)

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the Committee considered the e-mail written by Lia Babitch regarding the papers submitted by Kathy Freidman (a member of the public) at the September meeting. George Beneke advised that he does not think there will be a problem with the number of chickens in Copake. He observed that we are talking about a small number of chickens. The intent is "farm to table". Small production (with each farm miles apart from the other) is not as likely to give rise to problems, as detailed in the articles.

The meeting was called to order at 7:16 p.m.

Motion made and carried to accept the meeting minutes from September 24, 2013

1. Update from Nan Stoltzenburg

Surveys: To date we have only received 23 surveys. Nan provided a list of the individuals from whom we have received surveys. George and Bill will make calls to those who have not returned surveys.

Focus Groups: Nan asked the Committee for their preference regarding a Focus Group. She urged that a Focus Group be conducted by the end of the year. The Committee would like to schedule the event for **December 8, 2013, 1:00 p.m.** Nan advised that the meeting will be no more than two hours. Farmers and land owners who rent to farmers will be invited. How will it be advertised? Phone calls, letters, Copake Connection.

Interviews: Nan inquired what the Committee wanted in terms of interviews of “key stakeholders”. The Committee agreed that they would like to discuss the issue of interviews after the Focus Group is concluded. They want to consider hearing from Soil and Water and also farmers’ advocacy groups. The Committee feels that they will know better who they need to hear from after the Focus Group is conducted.

2. Processing

The Committee discussed the October 16, 2013 draft and agreed to the following changes:

- The number of fowl shall be increased from 5000 to 8000.
- The law shall in no way restrict the farmer who processes up to 1000 birds.
- The law shall not restrict the right to custom slaughtering. Language such as the following shall be added: “*The foregoing notwithstanding, nothing herein shall prohibit the right of the farmer to custom slaughtering as it is defined in 96 (D) of Article 5-A.*”
- The law should state that composting of offal pursuant to NYS regulations is encouraged. If composting is not used then offal shall be removed from premises within 24 hours.
- An Expedited Site Plan shall be required.

Motion made and carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne E. Mettler