

**Farmland Protection Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes from November, 26 2013**

Members Present:

Edgar Masters  
George Beneke  
Marcia Becker  
Christie Hegarty  
Bill Kiernan

Members Absent:

Lia Babitch  
Ejay Eisen

Liaisons and Others:

Jeanne Mettler (Town Board Liaison)  
Don Meltz

Meeting called to order 7:04 pm

**Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Motion made by George Beneke to accept the minutes of the previous meeting, seconded by Bill Kiernan. Motion carried.

**Bob Bernstein Presentation Description of the Plan for the Agriculture Center in Copake:**

1. Purchase large parcel of land (four properties in Copake, will be owned by Farmland Renewal, LLC).
2. Lease land long term (8 years) to multiple farmers, both new and established.
3. Land not yet purchased.
4. Binders are in on multiple parcels.
5. Set to close sometime in December
6. Three farmers currently on board with plan.
7. Will eventually offer farmer education programs
  1. Programs on scaling up
  2. Business training programs
8. Final component of plan will consist of ag tourism (idea to use one of the properties as rental/vacation house).
9. Will be adding an additional round of looking for proposals from farmers interested in raising livestock.

Discussion of Surveys:

- To date have received 24 surveys
- Committee decided that this is an acceptable representative sample

Discussion on Preparation for December 8, 2013 Forum

- Flyers sent out last week.
- Will need to have an acceptable representative sample at forum of both farmers and landowners.
- Nan and Don to prepare agenda for forum.

- Plan to have informal discussion using answers from surveys.
- Draft agenda will be sent out to committee members soon.

#### Don's Map Presentation

- Aerial Photo Map
- Identified Tax Code Map
- Soil Map
- Ag Districts Map
- Protected Land - Easements Map
- Recent Development Map
- Maps will be housed at Copake Town Hall for viewing as needed

#### Brief Discussion on LESA Process

- Method used to objectively identify prime farmland within a town
- Utilizes several components in the process
- Can adapt county criteria to meet our specific town needs

#### Discussion on LURC Review/Changes of Slaughterhouse Regulations

- Justification for 8000 birds
  - Cost of a processing facility
  - How many birds would be done each week
  - Long term economic viability
- Edgar Masters will put together a memo to LURC

Motion made and carried to adjourn at 9:04 pm