

Farmland Protection Committee Minutes
March 4, 2014

Members Present:

George Beneke
Edgar Masters
Marcia Becker
Bill Kiernan
Ejay Eisen
Christie Hegarty

Members Absent:

Lia Babitch

Liaisons and Others:

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

Meeting called to order 7:07 pm

Motion to accept minutes from January 28, 2014 made by E. Masters, second by M. Becker. Motion carried.

Review of email correspondence. Discussion of fencing large properties in Copake, discussion tabled to the end of the meeting.

Examination and review of farmland assessment notes and corresponding maps from D. Meltz. Identification of required elements for a municipal agricultural and farmland protection plan (see attachment one). Factors/features examined in layered mapping; prime farmland soils, soils of statewide importance, amount of surrounding farms within 1/4 mile, amount of surrounding protected land within 1/4 mile, flood zone (area), high or very high hydrological sensitivity, and land owned by farmer. At N. Stolzenburg's suggestion, D. Meltz will add an overlay showing the properties with agricultural exemptions to the Copake map.

Discussion on the role and vision of agriculture in Copake (see attachment two). To the list of items in the Role of Agriculture in Copake the committee added; farmers provide food, usually of higher quality, seeds, and compost; food security in emergencies; equipment assistance and skill sets to neighbors; and training of young people.

E. Eisen will prepare a draft compiling the various pieces into a comprehensive mission/vision statement. The committee will evaluate the statement and give their thoughts.

N. Stolzenburg will prepare a draft set of goals based upon the mission statement.

Examination of fencing large properties in Copake. Discussion of adding wildlife corridors to fence in properties for farming purposes. The committee will continue to gather facts and explore various possibilities and recommendations.

Next meeting to be held March 25, 2014 at 7:00 pm at the Copake Town Hall.

Meeting adjourned 8:51 pm.