

Farmland Protection Committee Minutes
April 22, 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 7:05 pm

Motion to accept minutes from March 4, 2014 made by M. Becker, second by E. Masters.
Motion carried.

Discussion of draft vision statement led by N. Stolzenburg. Committee comments, suggestions and deletions. Draft finalized by committee, except for final editing. E. Masters will forward draft for final grammatical editing.

Discussion of Draft Goals (see below)

1. Increase the stability and financial success of farms to ensure a long-term vibrant farming community in Copake.
2. Increase the diversity of agricultural operations and expand opportunities for value-added, niche, agri-tourism and other locally-grown specialty crops.
3. Enhance the availability of locally-grown, affordable food.
4. Widen public knowledge of, support for, and engagement with agriculture.
5. Enhance public/private partnerships that support and promote agriculture in Town.
6. Improve communication, collaboration and cooperation among all those involved with agriculture.
7. Ensure farmlands are affordable and accessible to farmers.
8. Increase and support new and young farmers actively involved in agriculture through supporting programs, to form the next generation of farmers.
9. Maintain a critical mass of farmland in Copake.
10. Promote environmentally sustainable farm practices to protect water quality and open spaces.

Goals to be edited by N. Stolzenburg, draft to be emailed to the committee and finalized at the next committee meeting.

D. Meltz map presentation demonstrating the identification of prime farmland utilizing criteria proposed by the committee. G. Beneke and E. Masters to test map with drive about through Copake to determine the maps accuracy.

N. Stolzenburg has made contact with several names from committee collaborative contact list, the rest have been unreachable. E. Masters suggests abandoning the effort. Committee decision made to make one last attempt, then use what we collect in the coming month.

Round table exercise led by N. Stolzenburg. Identification of policies and programs needed to increase and preserve farmland in Copake.

Review of Draft Table of Contents for Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan

Meeting adjourned 9 pm