

Farmland Protection Committee
Meeting Minutes from June, 25 2013

Members Present:

Edgar Masters
Marcia Becker
Christie Hegarty
Ejay Eisen
Bill Kiernan

Members Absent:

Lia Babitch
George Beneke

Liaisons and others:

Jeanne Mettler (Town Board Liaison)
Nan Stolzenburg
Don Meltz

Meeting called to order 7:04 pm

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Motion made by Ejay Eisen to accept the minutes of the previous meeting, second by Marcia Becker. Motion carried.

Initial Items Covered and Discussed:

1. A rough draft of the town map with identification of the individual parcels farmed and/or involved in agriculture was viewed.
2. Goal of mapping being to identify who is leasing and/or using what land.
3. It was brought up that we are missing farmers who do not claim agricultural exemptions.
4. It was proposed that it would take several months to accurately finish the map.

7:25 pm Nan and Don held a brief discussion on the next pieces we need to gather:

1. What layers are necessary and needed to put together and use for appropriate analysis to give us an accurate picture.
2. Discussion of using the LESA process.
3. Will need some sort of structure that will enable us to prioritize and identify prime locations for agriculture and how to specifically preserve them.
4. Edgar Masters requested good soil quality maps and ground water maps.
5. Request was made to gather information on properties with conservation easements already in place, as well as not-for-profits residing in Copake.
6. Marica Becker posed a question about utilizing a viewshed analysis, as well as how other town's have used them. Nan Stolzenberg said that it could be a consideration.

7:35 pm Presentation and Discussion of:

A. Draft Profile and Inventory

B. Surveys

1. Difference of seeing an analysis of the census information that is available versus utilizing and gathering "boots on the ground" information.

2. Presentation of sample surveys. Don Meltz will email digital copies for committee dispersal.
3. Edgar Masters proposed planning the survey at the next committee meeting. It was advised that each member go through the samples and identify what we personally would want included or not in the survey.

8:10 pm Edgar Masters briefly discussed his attendance of John Brennan's session last Tuesday.

8:15 pm Processing Plant Discussion

The next meeting will be held on July 23rd at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm