



Cattaraugus County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board

AGRICULTURAL & FARMLAND PROTECTION BOARD MEETING

County Center, Little Valley, NY

December 18, 2018

Board Members

David L. Zilker
Chairman

Barbara D. George
Vice Chairman

Crystal J. Abers

David Koch

Charles W. Couture

Brian Davis

James Finch

Daniel T. Martonis

Donald Telaak

Richard Rivers

Brian Andrews

Ag Board Members Present: David Zilker, Chairman
Charles Couture
James Finch
Donald Telaak
Crystal Abers
Richard Rivers

Ag Board Members Absent: Brian Andrews
Brian Davis
Barbara George
Daniel Martonis
David Koch

Planning Staff Present: Paul R. Bishop, Planner
Pat McGlew, Development Specialist
Tiffany Chiarilli, Keyboard Specialist

Guests: Rick Miller
Megan Boberg

Chairman Zilker called the meeting to order at 1:03 PM

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

James Finch moved with a second from Dick Rivers to approve the October 18, 2018 minutes as submitted. Motion was carried.



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2019 8th ANNUAL FARMER-NEIGHBOR DINNER

This year the dinner will be held on April 10, 2019. This year's color scheme will be gold with a variety of grains. The dinner will be held in West Valley as in past years. The event is slated for a 5:30 pm start for vendors and appetizers. Crystal will be reaching out to a few possible speakers and will be working on the menu. Last year's attendance was 324. This year there will be an estimated 310-320.

UPDATE TO THE CATTARAUGUS COUNTY AGRICULTURE AND FARMLAND PROTECTION PLAN

The application has been submitted. Patrick passed around a draft RFP and asked board members to please review and give recommendations. The direction that has been given is that the Cattaraugus County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan should be an economic development plan, for ex. "How to better the climate of agriculture in the County." The budget for the consultant is \$50,000 out of a total \$80,000 budget. Patrick also provided a list of potential names for the Steering Committee members, and a list of potential presenters to the Committee. He will be sending out an invitation and informational letter to potential members. Meetings for the Steering Committee will be scheduled every other month. Paul questioned if the Board would need to have a subcommittee for consultant interviews. Crystal advised that a subcommittee was not needed and the decision would just come back to the AFPB. Discussion on the presenter list included the addition of other agricultural markets such as energy, swine, equine and insurance. Crystal pointed out that the presenters will also help to engage the public.

AG TOUR 2019

Crystal advised that last year's tour was in the spring and the year prior was in the fall. It was noted that attendance was about the same during both seasons. Patrick would like to approach Amish communities. There have been Amish farms included in past tours. Patrick brought up visiting a large English dairy followed by an Amish dairy. Other possible stops discussed were Christmas tree farms, bees, equine and hemp.

30-Day Inclusions for 2019

Ag and Markets allows a 30 day time frame each year to apply to be included into an Ag District. Cattaraugus County has chosen January 1 to January 31. Once added to an Ag District, the property can only be removed during the eight-year review. Excluding Allegany State Park and the Seneca Nation Territory, approximately 30% of Cattaraugus County is an Ag District.

AGENCY UPDATES

Farm Bureau

Chuck reported that Farm Bureau had a good discussion at Cooperative Extension in regards to crop management. He also reported on awards given at the State convention and that the State Planning meeting was well attended.

Cooperative Extension

Dick reported that CCE held an Active Shooter program and had 85 people in attendance. At the Annual Meeting the presenter for the evening was Jess Halfon who runs a Hemp farm. There has been much discussion on Ag Specialist's. It is still in the works and has a lot of interest however there is not enough financial support at this time. Representatives from Cornell are coming for a meeting to discuss how to proceed. There is a solid commitment from Cornell for funding but it would only cover one year. It was noted that all surrounding counties have Ag Specialists.

Soil and Water Conservation District

Megan reports that they have been working on a lot of funding options and grants. She also noted that they were able to hydroseed almost 40 miles this year. There is continued work on the Chautauqua and Lake Erie Watersheds. There has been \$2.7 million allocated to WNY and out of that \$1.3 million to Cattaraugus County. Brian has been working on Southern Tier Ag Industry and is finding that some farms do not want to commit to the guidelines on the application. In round 1, 1 farm was awarded and in round 2, 2 farms were awarded.

Southern Tier West

No update available.

OPEN FORUM

Jim inquired on the status of the Farm Bill. It should be signed on Thursday.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting has been scheduled for February 5, 2019 at 1:00 pm at the County Center in Little Valley.

ADJOURNMENT

Don Telaak moved to adjourn with a second by James Finch at 1:56 p.m. Motion carried.