



Cattaraugus County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board

AGRICULTURAL & FARMLAND PROTECTION BOARD MEETING
County Center, Little Valley, NY
April 25, 2017

Board Members

David L. Zilker
Chairman

Barbara D. George
Vice Chairman

Crystal J. Abers

David Koch

Daniel Brown

Charles W. Couture

Brian Davis

James Finch

Daniel T. Martonis

Donald Telaak

Suzann Cushman

Ag Board Members Present: David Zilker, Chairman
Barbara George
Crystal Abers
Suzann Cushman
James Finch
Donald Telaak
Charles Couture

Ag Board Members Absent: Daniel Brown
Brian Davis
David Koch
Daniel Martonis

Planning Staff Present: Paul R. Bishop, Planner
Jean Davis, Ag Development Specialist
Jeremy Knab, Website Technician

Guest: Kimberly LaMendola, Regional Development Coordinator,
Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board
Rick Miller, Olean Times Herald Reporter

Chairman Zilker called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Donald Telaak moved with a second from Barbara George to approve the March 21, 2017 minutes as submitted. Motion was carried.



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2017 6th ANNUAL FARMER-NEIGHBOR DINNER

Crystal Abers reported that the Farmer-Neighbor Dinner held Wednesday, April 12, 2017, was very successful with more than 300 attendees, including many new individuals. The Committee reported that they were very pleased with the event and that the food was delicious. Selling tickets per whole table worked out very well. Each year the Committee tries to come up with new ideas. Many positive comments were made about having the local 4-H kids bus the tables. Suzann Cushman stated that the Cattaraugus Cornell Cooperative Extension sent the 4-H club a nice donation. A suggestion was made to have the kids dress with matching t-shirts next year. The music is an added plus to the event and Donald Telaak will ask the band to play again next year. Having the West Valley Volunteer Firemen members park cars worked out well. The award presentations and the guest speaker program moved along quickly, everyone was very pleased with the length of the programming.

2018 7th ANNUAL FARMER-NEIGHBOR DINNER

Suggestions for the 2018 Farmer-Neighbor Dinner presentation include an introduction to Wi-Fi and hash-tag photos using cell phones. The event will be held Wednesday, April 11, 2018; suggested colors were brown and beige and the Committee would like to have (hash tag) #FNDinner Bumper Stickers made for next year. Suzann Cushman stated that they have three large screens available for displaying the photo slide show. Suggestions were made to have seasonal agriculture photos, photos from all over the County and more Ag Tour photos.

CCAGHELP.COM UPDATE AND NEW FACEBOOK PAGE

Jean Davis informed the Committee of the recently posted upcoming events and news articles.

UPCOMING AGRICULTURAL WORKSHOPS

Jean Davis reported that on Thursday, May 11, 2017, at 6:30 pm, Sally Cunningham, Certified Nursery & Landscape Professional will present a seminar on "Transformational Power of Gardening: How it Builds Communities and Changes the Image (and Reality) of a Region".

2017 USDA CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Paul Bishop distributed to the Committee a copy of the 2012 Census of Agriculture Cattaraugus County Profile and a copy of the Frequently Asked Questions. Paul reported that the Census is taken only once every five years. The 2017 Agriculture Census will be mailed out in December 2017. Paul stated that it is very important that agriculture producers complete the Ag Census. James Finch stated that the results are used in a variety of federal programs.

The 2012 Ag Census was reviewed in detail noting that Cattaraugus County was No. 1 in New York State in the number of honey bee colonies; No. 2 for other animals – alpaca; and No. 1 in Christmas trees.

Kimberly LaMendola suggested that STW and this Committee work together to help farmers fill out the upcoming census form online.

TRANSFER OR PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS

Paul Bishop gave a report to the Committee, submitted by Brian Davis, on the Transfer or Purchase of Development Rights. Brian suggested that someone that is familiar with the options and procedures, such as Diane Held from Erie County Cooperative Extension, come and present information to the Committee. David Haight, NYS Director of the American Farmland Trust, was also suggested as a presenter.

Barbara George made the following motion:

“The Cattaraugus County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board recommends holding a meeting or panel discussion in the fall on the topic “Transfer or Purchase of Development Rights”. Only written questions will be accepted by the Board and be presented at the meeting”.

With a second from Charles Couture the motion was carried

It was suggested to hold the meeting at the Cattaraugus Cornell Cooperative Extension Center.

AGENCY UPDATES

Farm Bureau

Charles Couture reported that Maple Weekend in March was a tremendous success. He reported that the value of maple sap comes from the value added products. He stated that his brother-in-law from Attica, NY is working with Yancey’s Fancy for a maple bacon cheese. His products that already have been approved by Cornell for production are Golden Maple Root Beer, Maple Hot Sauce and Maple BBQ Sauce. This year he is working on approval for an Aged Bourbon Maple Syrup. Samples of these products were given out to the Committee.

Charles Couture reported that Ag Trivia Night, hosted by Cattaraugus County Farm Bureau, was held at the Cattaraugus County Cornell Cooperative Extension Center on April 22, 2017. Fifty to sixty people attended and enjoyed the contest. There was wine and beer tasting and great food, including chicken wings. The first place winners were Joan Petzen and Lynn Telaak. They are hoping to make this an annual event.

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Suzann Cushman reported that the Cattaraugus County Extension Center Board determined that they need an agriculture person added to their team. Two areas that they would like to focus on are a Farm Finance Workshop and a New Farmer Workshop (Beginning Farmer Resources).

Suzann reported that they are working to expand 4-H Kids and market sales at the Cattaraugus County Fair; they would like to increase market sales by \$20,000. They feel that there is a lack of restaurants participating in the market sales and they also would like to focus on educating the public to purchase the 4-H animals.

Suzann reported that Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Program training will be held on Saturday, June 17, 2017, from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm, in Cattaraugus County at the Mansfield Fire Hall, 7960 S Maples Road, Little Valley. The cost for the training is \$25.00. The morning will begin with classroom training and the afternoon will have chute side training presented by Williams Ranch and Cattle, Jeff and Vicky Williams.

Soil and Water Conservation District

No additional report received from Brian Davis.

Southern Tier West Regional Planning & Development Board

Kimberly LaMendola reported that Southern Tier West is holding the 24th Annual Local Government Conference on Wednesday, May 10, 2017, at Houghton College. Kimberly distributed the agenda and registration form to the Committee. She also commented that at the afternoon session the topic "Planning to Protect Farming and Agriculture in Your Community" would be covered.

Kimberly reported that Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) has been funded and they are now accepting grant proposals for FY 2018. The pre-application deadline is May 31, 2017.

Kimberly also reported on the Food System Development Work – they are working to do a Value Added Workshop. Upcoming tour will be held at Glen Industries, Watkins Glen on co-packing. The New York's Sustainable Agriculture Working Group is working to localize the supply chain.

OPEN FORUM

Paul Bishop reported that the Agriculture Business Tour will be scheduled for the month of September and the location of the tour will most likely be in the northeastern area of Cattaraugus County.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for September 26, 2017 at 1:00 pm at the County Center in Little Valley. Barbara George stated that she would be out of town most of September; however she would be back by September 26th.

ADJOURNMENT

Donald Telaak moved to adjourn with a second by James Finch at 2:56 p.m. Motion was carried.