

*Town of Ballston Farmland Protection Plan  
Committee Meeting  
Minutes*

**Tuesday, March 5, 2013, 7:30pm**

**Ballston Town Hall**

Welcome & Introductions

Chairman's Report

1. Farm Tour taken on Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> with Sue Caruvana and Rob Holzman from Elan, Bob Pustolka guiding and Joan Pott driving, to familiarize Elan Planning with the existing agricultural pursuits in the town and the pressures facing them.
2. Contact was made with Town of Clifton Park Planning Department through Jennifer Viggiani. She supplied links to her towns website where information/explanation is given regarding TDR and Term Easement/Conservation Easement plans.
3. Committee members have been working on reviewing the maps distributed at the Feb. 19<sup>th</sup> meeting for discrepancies or inaccuracies. Please come to the March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting prepared to turn in your corrected maps.
4. Change of Meeting time on March 26<sup>th</sup> AND ALL future meetings to **6:00pm.**

Consultant Report – Survey Results

While only 39 surveys were returned, the results buttress and substantively reflect the results of the survey done for the 2006 Comprehensive Plan. The issues raised in the survey by respondents will be aggressively addressed in the Farmland Protection and Preservation Plan.

Rob Holzman noted that the soil type, BTB, which is prime agricultural soil, is present on better than half of the Lang Farm – now under consideration by the Town for removal from agricultural production for use as a Town Park. He emphasized this as an example of the loss of prime farmland and the pressure to develop existing farmland, illustrating the need for education! Ag & Markets 25AA was discussed and its impact on procedure detailed.

Proposed Table of Contents for the Plan was reviewed.

Next Steps

- 1.) Map corrections to be returned March 26<sup>th</sup>
- 2.) Farm Inventory
- 3.) Consultants will offer ideas/recommendations
- 4.) Review existing policies/laws/zoning for Ag protection
- 5.) Brainstorm/develop strategies

Adjournment

