



# *Town of Ballston*

*A Farms First Community*

*Farmland Protection and Preservation Committee*

*Year End Report  
December 2014*

## ***YEAR-END REPORT***

***December 2014***

**January 2014 – The Town Board passed Resolution 14-20 establishing a negative SEQRA declaration for the Farmland Preservation and Protection Plan adopted by the Town Board in 2013 and prepared with a grant from NY State Ag & Markets and in cooperation with Elan, the professional planners hired by Town.**

- **FLPP Committee prioritized the needs identified in its FLPP Plan for the purpose of implementation and agreed Transfer of Development Rights, Speed Reduction in the Ag District, Education, and Mitigation of Impacts from Development should be addressed as quickly as possible and in that order.**

**February 2014 – FLPP Committee regretfully accepted the resignation of Committee member, J. Andrew VanVorst, and thanked him for his service.**

- **Town Board discussed the request from the FLPP Committee and passed Resolution 14-041 to make a grant application seeking financial assistance to hire a professional planner and to create a Transfer of Development Rights Program in accordance with the FLPP Plan.**

**March 2014 - FLPP Committee began consideration of various professional planners for the TDR process.**

**April 2014 - Speed Reduction in Ag District discussed vis a vis the law proposed in NYS Senate to allow municipalities to set their own speed limits. FLPP Committee Determined this issue to be an urgent priority.**

**May 2014 – Owner of Traffic Control Systems made presentation to FLPP Committee with Supervisor Ziegler and Councilman Antoski present regarding speed control signs.**

**June 2014 – FLPP Committee completed research as to planners for the TDR Program process, and proposed the hiring of Nan Stolzenburg of Community Planners and Environmental Associates, and the preparation of a Grant Application began.**

- **In furtherance of education and heightened public awareness, the Committee again entered a float in the Flag Day Parade prepared by Steve and Gail Merchant with contributions from area farms.**
- **FLPP Committee submitted letter to Town Board requesting an application process be instituted whereby farmers could apply for funds from the “mitigation fees” funds to remediate damage caused by development; i.e., deer damage, drainage problems, trespassing, etc.**
  - **It was determined in discussion with Ag&Mkts and NY Tax & Finance that due to ambiguity in the law this cannot be done at this time. However, Ag&Mkts suggested appealing to our Assemblyman for a change in the legislation, and this was addressed at our December meeting.**

**July 2014 - Grant Application submitted for TDR Program.**

**July–September 2014 – Town Board reviewed the requests of FLPP for speed signs and passed Resolution 14-159 approving purchase of a sign.**

**October 2014 – Grant Application for TDR Program was approved by NYS Ag&Mkts.**

- **Town Board approved purchase of traffic control device and Highway Dept. installed it at Goode St. location north of Knight Orchards**

**November 2014 – Nan Stolzenburg/CPEA submitted their Scope and Work Plan to FLPP for review.**

**December 2014 – Mayor Romano of Village of Ballston contacted by FLPP Committee and offered Town of Ballston the use of their LARGE traffic control sign. Joe Whalen, SuperIntendent Highway Dept. began implementation.**

- **A letter will be submitted to Assemblyman Tedisco requesting a change in legislation to remedy the ambiguity in NYS Law giving Farmers access to funds collected from builders in towns to mitigate the impacts of development. Councilman Antoski will place a call to Assemblyman Tedisco to follow up on the letter.**
- **Councilman John Antoski received approval for “Ag in School” class to be offered September 2015 fall semester BHBL High School.**
- *Historic Note: 100 years ago BHBL Central School District was called Burnt Hills Ballston Lake Home Economics and Agricultural High School*