

January 17, 2023

Committee Members Present:  
Chuck Curtiss – Board Liaison  
Sara Curtiss  
Steve Merchant  
Scott Draina  
Kevin Draina  
Linda Voehringer

Members of the Public  
Student from Burnt Hills High School

We had a high student sit in on the meeting for one of his classes. New committee members were welcomed. Sara gave the committee an update on the Farm Trail idea after having spoken at the most recent Town Board meeting and heard back that the town cannot provide any money towards supporting the farm trail. Town of Ballston Supervisor, Eric, did say the farm trail information could be added to the town website, but money cannot be given to businesses, and this appears as if money is going to particular businesses (farms).

Two committee members (Linda Voehringer and Steve Merchant) are interested in learning more about preserving their farmland. We discussed providing an information night concerning how to participate in the PDR. Sara will look for a webinar that might be online for them and ask Nicolina Foti at Cornell Cooperative Extension about presentations or a webinar that she knows of on the PDR. One way to get information out is to do a mailer to the demographics (over age 40 owning 50+ acres of land within the town limits) and doing a mailer to them. We'd need to request money for a mailer.

There was discussion on who owns the Facebook page, Ballston is a Farms First Community. Ruth Osterlitz is thought to be the owner/administrator. Sara Curtiss is friends with her and will reach out to see if she wants to continue or pass along the page to someone in the farming community.

Committee needs to put together a list of the farms within the Town of Ballston so they can be listed on the town website.

Notes Submitted by Sara Curtiss