

FPPC Monthly Meeting - May 16th, 2023

Attendees:

Emilia Medick, Chairperson
Chuck Curtiss, Town Board Liaison
Joan Pott
Stephen Merchant
Sara Curtiss
Linda Voehringer
Scott Draina
Kelly Jasinski

Chuck opened the meeting announcing that he was going to put forward a resolution at the next town board meeting to pull Emilia from the FPPC Chair position. He expressed concerns with minutes not being completed, but never made mention of this at previous meetings. His concern was that these meetings would be seen as secretive. Meeting minutes have been brought up to date, prior to this meeting. Chuck also expressed his concern with PDR and his perceived thought of Emilia's opinion on the program. He felt that Emilia did not support the PDR program. Emilia noted that she is not going to be a participate in this program. She does not support big government and her family wants their property to remain as is for future generations. She also expressed that she does not impose these ideas on to others, and that if others want to participate that is their business.

Joan spoke up and spoke about the past agenda 21, which is now the UN agenda 30, and Mario Cuomo's 2010 plan. There could be concerns of landowners that once your property rights have been transferred, there could always be the possibility of the state (government) either forcing landowners into "selling" the remaining land and rights to the state, or having it taken by eminent domain. She also expressed that when she started as the chairperson of the committee, she didn't know what she didn't know. Steve also expressed to Chuck not to bring forth the resolution and to give new leadership time.

The meeting was brought back on track and proceeded following the agenda.

The "Right to Farm" signs have been ordered by Joe Whalen. Will need to follow up for the installation.

PDR outreach and presentation:

It was asked if there were anyone that we could find to do a presentation to the targeted/interested landowners. Sara noted that she has spoke to Saratoga Plan and Saratoga Cornell Co-operative extension. Joan noted that the town PDR program was different than that of those two groups and should be presented by someone knowledgeable from the town. Joan noted that Nan Stolzenburg may be able to do that presentation. MJ engineering had started a flyer but had not completed it yet. It was thought by the committee to prioritize the larger landowners. Kelly thought there was \$600,000 to \$800,000 available for the PDR program currently. It was also discussed a possible matching component from the County that maybe able to be used at the same time to increase the amount. Kelly noted that this was not ready yet to go out to landowners and to keep this on the agenda for the next meeting.

Saratoga County Tourism Board Allocation on behalf of FPPC:

Emilia noted that Eric had sent a similar program Albany County did for their Brewery trail. The county allocated funds to the County Tourism board. It would need to be decided what the committee would

be exactly looking for, and how much we think that would be needed to attain this to allocate it in the budget. Sara has not sent the map to Emilia for the development of a brochure. Linda expressed concern about being on the map, and Emilia told her that it was up to her how she wanted to be represented on it. Farms could choose not to have a physical location on the map but could be included in the brochure portion with whatever contact information they wanted, or not at all. No one had any discussion on the amount the committee would seek to be included in the budget.

Budget Requests:

It was discussed to ask for the possibility of 3 postcard mailings at the cost of \$2200 each for a total of \$6600. It was also discussed to ask for \$1000 as a general use fund for any supplies the committee may require. The committee was in agreement with an amount of \$7600. The Tourism Board allocation amount still needs to be discussed further.

Vote for Summer meetings and/or day change:

It seems as though the majority of people in attendance, Tuesday's work. Will go and look at the schedule to see if any other Tuesdays are free. In anticipate of summer farming unknown but to continue the conversation we will look into doing a hybrid meeting with either attendance at the town hall and zoom meeting for the summer months.

Educational Meetings/activities/breakfast:

Discussion was had about doing a seed planting demonstration in the spring and do a pumpkin competition.

Also, discussion of different information booths at the town hall with different types of farming in the town as well as where your food comes from and its important to buy local not because you know where the food is grown but the environmental factor of transportation of foods from farther away possibility in other countries.

Will look at possible dates to put something together in the Fall.

Flag day Parade – June 8th

Joan and Emilia are working to pull together floats and tractors to support the Flag Day parade. Jeremy Knight is the grand marshal of this year's parade.

Solar Screening

Concerned residents around Middeline Road are concerned about the screening that will be in place for the solar installation that is being put in. Existing trees that could have been used for screening were cut down. The higher elevation of houses around the installation leads to possible difficulty for screening. The committee will inquire with the planning board on the screening of this installation and what was required to submit to show screening.

Burnt Hills Forward

Committee is still concerned about the Burnt Hills Forward application and grant, most concerned with the expansion of the sewer district. Some existing business owners in the area of sewer expansion are concerned that rents will increase and that they will no longer be able to afford it. It was brought up that those winning applications had sewers, so the BHF committee feels that this a crucial inclusion in the application. Emilia looked up the brochure for any application scoring sheets and could not locate on the NY Forward website. Most all state grant solicitations will have a scoring sheet.