

FPPC June 20th 2023 Meeting Agenda

Attendees:

Emilia Medick - Chairperson
Chuck Curtiss - Town Board Liaison
Cliff Sampson - Committee Member
Sara Curtiss - Committee Member
Joan Pott
Courtney Stone
Nelson Stone

Right to farm signs are in and will be installed the week of June 26th.

PDR Brochure that MJ Engineering assembled. Emilia will reach out to see if it is available so that the FPPC can have it added to the website and can be pointed towards when reaching out to landowners that are interested in participating. The Committee will also be looking for a town representative that is able to give a presentation to the interested landowners once the program is ready. Chuck stated the presentation should be scheduled during the town board meeting to reach landowners. There are no funds available yet, but the current estimate that may be available by the end of the year is between \$600,000 - \$800,000. The Building Department is handling developers buying into the system and purchasing PDR credits. Not much to tell landowners yet.

Chuck informed the Committee that the Farm Trail that was first presented to the Committee would be taken over by a special committee and be taken from this committee. Farm Trail map system is off the table for this committee. More to that when there is more information. Chuck could not expand on the Farm Trail map and how it is being taken care of.

Chuck stated how meetings should be run, with the committee members in attendance. reserve comments for non-committee members either prior to the meeting or at the end of the meeting, so that things actually get things done. The meetings should be run in a very orderly way, he discussed this with the supervisor, Eric Connelly. Eric and Chuck are frustrated by the failure of the committee to get things done over the years. Emilia brought up that the push for the PDR program is premature as we have been told there is nothing in place for the committee to do. Chuck confirmed.

Emilia stated that she still planned to assemble a list of farms to be put together in a brochure like pdf for the placement on the FPPC website. Emilia stated that all farms in the town of Ballston should be recognized and be on the website if they choose. Emilia is going to push forward with this. Chuck and Sara stated this would cause a lot of redundancy, but from the list that Nicolina Foti provided to me that Sara received it is lacking. Sara is unwilling to share the list.

Committee Budget Requests \$1000 for committee incidentals. Will try to do most communication via phone and email, where postcards are not necessary as they haven't been found very effective.

FPPC Flag Day Parade has been rescheduled to July 6th.

Educational meetings

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Discussions of an October Farm educational fair for those farms that would like to participate. Geared possibly towards some kid activities. Possible places to host could be the town hall or the 4H building. Pros and Cons to both. need to know how much participation from the farming community.

Also discussed doing a festival of trees at town hall. Like a lighted drive through for residence. Each farm could decorate their tree as they wish.

Joan Pott brought up issues with agricultural exemption that her daughter's farm ran into. Keirth and Christopher submitted the proper paperwork for the ag exemption. The town was notified of the pdr change. The ag exemption never transferred over, and they weren't notified that there was an issue. Tried to talk about a remedy for this, or appeal process. Will have to look into it. The letter to notify of the change was sent in May.

Sewers will have to be put to a vote as per Chuck. Funding doesn't appear to be in place for the sewer funding. Farmland committee is worried about a town tax. Government is becoming too big, and developer's roads being turned over to the town, making the need larger.

Zoning law needs to be looked at and reviewed for applicability to for pro farms law. The Committee will start doing that.

Joan shared a hay sculpture that is currently down at the MOMA. The committee discussed possibly looking into doing something similar or maybe outside decoration at town hall to promote the farms of the community.

Submitted by
Emilia Medick, Chairperson