

FPPC Sept 20th 2023 Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Emilia Medick
Steve Merchant
Clifford Sampson
Joan Pott
Linda Wood

-Right to farm signs -all are installed. Locations are:

Goode/Middleline
Charlton Rd/Hop City
Sweetman & Jenkins at Town line
Benedict
Eastline/ Round Lake Rd

-PDR Brochure - Reviewed the PDR Brochure, noted it was focused towards developers and the purchasing of credits to fund the PDR program. Program needs funding in place to move forward to see which landowners may be interested in participating.

-Reviewed the Town of Ballston Comprehensive Plan and the Role of the Farmland Protection and Preservation Committee as stated.

From the Comp Plan page 50

A-3. Expand the Farmland Protection and Preservation Committee role to include:

- Serving as the information clearinghouse and forum for farm-town relations.
- Facilitating the technical, educational, business, and regulatory assistance needed to farm and to live near farms.
- Fostering a working relationship among farmers, residents, and institutions.
- Advocating agriculture, farmland protection, and agricultural economic development at county, state, and federal levels.
- Marketing, promoting, and initiating community agricultural events and awareness programs,
- Assisting the Town Board in grant seeking and writing for ag programs.
- Facilitating existing programs that match farmers with available land.
- Promoting sustainable farming to landowners and farmers.
- As part of the Town's website, create a local farm inventory page that lists location, products, availability, prices, etc. Work with local farms and encourage them to be listed in this and other similar websites.
- Creating an easy-to-understand brochure on the realities of living in agricultural areas, and making it available for distribution, including adding such information to the Town website. Also dispersing it to the Saratoga CO-OP extension to update their website of farms in our town.

With this direction the group is working together to bring a complete list of the farms of Ballston. A list of requirements proposed:

- A farm grossing \$1000 as defined by the USDA.
- Products being produced on the lands of the Town of Ballston included.
- Products coming from outside the town would not be highlighted/included.

Chairperson has reached out to several farms so far to try and gather the remaining contact info. Once complete will canvas for what info they would like to have included, if any, and will start to pull together a town wide brochure.

Linda Wood offered to help put together a map as she has mapping software that is meant for this type of application.

-Chairperson would like to propose to the town board a resolution to waive rental fee of the commercial kitchen for farmers. This could help farmers that produce products in the town with certain requirements for kitchens.

-Educational or Farm Showcase

It was brought to our attention that the BH-BL Women's Club hosted the "Festival of Trees" in the community room of the Town Hall. It would be a great event to partner with another group to ensure success. Reached out to the President, Susan Felthousen, to see if it would be something they would consider resurrecting. 9/26/23