

FPPC December 19th 2023 Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Emilia Medick
Steve Merchant
Scott Draina
Kevin Draina
Linda Wood

PDR program- Councilwoman Jasinski pointed the committee to the 12/12/23 Town Board meeting for an update -

*“Councilwoman Jasinski stated that she continues to work on the Town’s Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Program. She will be meeting with Saratoga PLAN next week to present the program. The Town has submitted a letter of support for Saratoga PLAN’s application in Round 5 of the Agriculture & Markets Land Trust grant. If they are awarded this grant, Ms. Jasinski hopes to have Saratoga PLAN’s collaboration and support moving forward when the Town rolls out the program to the public. A list of items that they have experience with have been submitted for their consideration (identifying parcels that would be eligible to apply for the State FPIG (Farmland Protection Implementation Grants Program), assistance with developing a pre-application, assistance with presenting to eligible and interested homeowners who may want to preserve their parcels from development, and more). **Ms. Jasinski’s concern, moving forward, is the lack of funds in our PDR bank.** We will be encouraging interested homeowners to apply for County and State funds. There is more than one way to do this. Farmland grants are usually between the owner and the State. There is a Town option; however, we would need to make sure that we have the funds to cover this. The County funds can be used for farm properties, but generally fall into land preservation.”*

“Councilman Curtiss stated that he has spoken to some landowners about the PDR Program and has received some positive responses. He stated that future public workshops will be helpful when the Town is ready, as it will answer many of the questions that he has been receiving.”

The lack of funds has been the concern of the FPPC in relation to the roll out. If the town is unprepared to offer the purchasing of development rights then other tools need to be developed in addition for Farmland Protection and Preservation. The committee’s question to Councilman Curtiss would be how is he determining his outreach? Is it based on the map that was developed last year based on a point system?

The committee went through the Town of Ballston Farms list. This list is relatively complete. Chairwoman Medick will do another email and possibly a printed correspondence to those we have not received a response from. Most information is complete in relation to addresses, emails and phone numbers. The written/email correspondence will ask farms if they would like inclusion on the brochure/map to be developed soon.

Concerns were brought to the committee over agricultural exemptions for farm buildings. Chairwoman Medick sent out information to the majority of farms for the [Real Property Tax Law Section 483](#) for those interested in looking into it.