

Town of Farmington

1000 County Road 8
Farmington, New York 14425

AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Thursday, October 17, 2019 • 6:30 p.m.

MINUTES—FILED WITH TOWN CLERK

The following minutes are written as a summary of the main points that were made and the actions taken at the Town of Farmington Agriculture Advisory Committee meeting.

Committee Members Present: Henry Adams, *Chairperson*
Don Jones
John Marvin
Doug Payne
Royal Purdy
One Vacant Position

Committee Members Excused: Denis Lepel
Peter Maslyn
Michael Putman

Town Representative Present:
Dr. Michael Casale, Farmington Town Board Member

1. MEETING OPENING, PUBLIC NOTICE AND NEWS MEDIA NOTIFICATION

Mr. Adams called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

The Town Clerk was notified of the meeting on October 3, 2019. The meeting clerk notified the Committee members, Town staff, and the Canandaigua *Daily Messenger* newspaper on October 3, 2019, with a reminder on October 14, 2019.

2. REQUIRED SEXUAL HARASSMENT TRAINING

Mr. Adams: Reminded committee members to complete the State-required sexual harassment training by attending a training session in person or on line. Contact Marcy Daniels in Supervisor Ingalsbe’s office for the web site address or provide a certificate of completion if this training was taken this year at another location.

3. PURCHASE OF DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS (PDR) PROGRAM

Mr. Adams: Reported on the Genesee Land Trust PDR Program information session held in Palmyra, N.Y., on September 17, 2019. He said that Lorna Wright of the Genesee Land Trust reported that eight individuals from the Town of Farmington have expressed interest in the PDR Program and that one pre-application has been submitted to the Land Trust.

Mr. Adams: Also reported that the Genesee Land Trust will submit an application to the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets for an Open Option Agreement leading to a potential Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) application on behalf of Gerlock Farms which actively farms lands in the Town of Farmington and the Town of Canandaigua.

The PDR Open Option Agreement program provides funds up to three percent of the assessed value of a farm to a landowner who expresses an interest in selling the development rights to a land trust. The option is valid for up to three years with an option to extend it for an additional period of time. An advantage of the Option Agreement Program is to provide the landowner and the land trust to work with the Department of Agriculture and Markets early in the process to resolve issues, and to make the subsequent PDR grant application process easier. An Option Agreement increases the opportunity that a grant application will be approved.

However, the Option funds must be repaid to the State if the subsequent PDR application is not approved. This program is new and that it has not been highly publicized because of the high risk to the landowner to repay the Option funds if the PDR application does not succeed.

The Option Program requires a supporting Town Board resolution. The Canandaigua Town Board and the Farmington Town Board are expected to adopt resolutions in support of the Gerlock family application on October 21, 2019, and October 22, 2019, respectively.

■ A motion was made by MR. MARVIN, seconded by MR. JONES, that the Farmington Agriculture Advisory Committee does hereby offer its support of the Genesee Land Trust's application to the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets on behalf of the Gerlock Farms application.

Motion carried by voice vote.

4. TOWN UPDATES

A. Comprehensive Plan:

The first meeting of the committee to update the Comprehensive Plan is in the process of being scheduled. Mr. Adams is the Agriculture Advisory Committee representative. Steven Holtz will represent the Town Board. Representatives from the Planning Board, the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Conservation Board and the community also will serve on the committee. The committee will meet in November, December, January and February to prepare the update to the Comprehensive Plan for presentation at a Public Hearing in March.

Mr. Marvin: Suggested that the Town may wish to become a solar-friendly community by encouraging solar installations of limited size in certain zoning districts. He said that the Town may wish to become receptive to solar projects but have control over the locations in which the solar panels can be installed. Mr. Adams said that he would bring this idea to the Comprehensive Plan Committee.

Mr. Marvin: Also discussed the possibility of considering an extension of the Town drainage district.

B . Delaware River Solar Project (southwest corner of Yellow Mills Road and Fox Road)

The Town Planning Board approved the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) determination for the solar project (Negative Declaration) on August 7, 2019.

The Zoning Board of Appeals denied the solar company's four Area Variance applications on August 26, 2019.

The company then revised the subdivision, site plan and Special Use Permit applications that were recently submitted to Town staff at the Project Review Committee meeting, to the Ontario County Planning Board, and to the Town Planning Board.

The Town Planning Board will next determine if the SEQR determination requires further review based upon the revised applications. In addition, a group of citizens has filed a New York State Civil Practice Law and Rules Article 78 proceeding that is pending in New York State Supreme Court in Canandaigua, N.Y.

5. FUTURE MEETINGS

It was the consensus of the Committee that no meetings are required in the months of November and December. The next meeting of the Committee will be Thursday, January 16, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. at the Farmington Town Hall.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Following the meeting, the clerk locked the front entrance doors of the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

John M. Robortella L.S.

Agriculture Advisory Committee Board Members:

Hal Adams, *Chairperson* (January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019)

Term expires December 31, 2021

Don Jones

Term expires December 31, 2021

Denis Lepel

Term expires December 31, 2021

Peter Maslyn

Term expires December 31, 2021

John Marvin

Term expires December 31, 2020

Doug Payne

Term expires December 31, 2021

Michael Putman

Appointed March 26, 2019

Term expires December 31, 2023.

Royal Purdy

Appointed January 3, 2018

Term expires December 31, 2022

Mr. Gerlock's term would have expired on December 31, 2019

E-mail Distribution:

Adams, Hal
Gerlock, Meghan (interested citizen)
Jones, Donald
Lepel, Denis
Marvin, John
Maslyn, Peter
Payne, Doug
Purdy, Royal
Putman, Michael
Bowerman, Nate
Brand, Ron
Casale, Michael
Degear, David
Delpriore, Dan
Finley, Michelle
Herendeen, Ron
Ingalsbe, Peter
Holtz, Steven
Kincaid, Jamie
Pritchard, Seth (Canandaigua landowner)
Wright, Lorna, Genesee Land Trust