

Farmland Protection Plan Committee Meeting, 9/17/09.

Virginia Andkjar	Sonja Hedlund
Linda Babicz	Jennifer Mall
Tom Bose	Earl Myers
Alice Diehl	Jim Scheutzow
Paul Hahn	Nan Stolzenburg
Tanya Hahn	Jill Weyer

Announcements: There will be a session entitled “Farm Neighbor Relationships: Obstacle or Opportunity” at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Building in Ferndale on Saturday, October 10 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm. The session is sponsored by the Extension, SC Planning and the Dispute Resolution Center. To register, please contact Joe Walsh at the Extension (292-6180).

- **Table of Contents**

Discussion of the plan’s layout and organization: Do we want details of the plan to be in the appendices, or in the front? How far will people read? Who is our target audience?

- The intended audience is the Town Board, who needs to approve the plan. For others, the Executive Summary is a concise description of the plan, for citizens to read. They can get a good understanding of the plan from the Executive Summary, and read on if they choose to.
- In general, the most detailed information is in the appendices. For example, “Farming in Callicoon/Delaware” in the Introduction section is a summary of Appendix 1, “Farms and Farm Resources.”
- General agreement that, although we feel all the information is very important, the details can stay in the appendices for ease of reading.
- We should also include a list of acronyms as an appendix.

- **Layout of the Plan**

What do we want the document to look like?

- Pictures of farms in operation throughout the document, and as a collage or mosaic on the cover.
- Committee members will send pictures of farmers and farms to Nan, or to SC Planning, or to their Town Clerks ASAP.
- Some figures or graphics that clearly illustrate some of the strategies we mention (for example, cluster development, minimum lot sizes, TDR, PDR, etc.)
- Callout boxes that stress some of the priorities and other important points.
- We will make the document look good between now and December, and if the Towns want to take it to a professional graphic designer later on, you can do that.

- **Schedule**

- October: Nan will have a draft plan ready for our committee meeting, and we will discuss edits
- November: get public input on the draft plan
 - November 19th committee meeting will be held at 7 pm, and will be dedicated to getting public input.
 - Nan will create a synopsis of the plan
 - To advertise, we will send the synopsis to everyone who received surveys, along with an invitation to the November 19th meeting

- We will also hand out synopses at the Farm Bureau Annual Meeting (October 7th) and the CCE Dinner (October 23rd)—Tanya Hahn will do this.
 - Nan and Jen will put together a press release
 - Jill will send the press release to the River Reporter and the Democrat, and the County will distribute it
- Discussion of public input: it is most likely that the public will accept everything in the plan, except for density changes, because a decrease in allowable density is perceived as a negative thing for landowners. So we should be prepared for that. The November meeting isn't meant to be a debate, however. It is a forum for members of the public to voice their opinions.
- After the meeting, committee members will stay and discuss the input received.
- We will put copies of the plan on the Sullivan County website, the Town websites, at the Extension office, and at the Town Halls for people to read.
- Sonja volunteered to hand out copies of the synopsis and invitations to the November 19th meeting at upcoming farmers markets.
- December: draft plan goes to the Town Boards.

● **Implementation Table**

- Intended audience is Town Boards.
 - Each strategic action and initiative from the regulatory and non-regulatory strategies is included here.
 - Please look at the “Implementation Priority” column—you might wish to undertake these actions sooner or later than they are listed here. (Short term= 1 year to 18 months; Medium term= 18 months to three years; Long term= three to five years, etc.)
 - Page 1, first action: we should split the “recommended strategic action” into several lines, because it includes several actions.
 - Perhaps we should list all PDR actions together as one strategic action.
- Please give your feedback on the implementation table to Nan ASAP!

● **Next Steps**

Next month we will discuss the timeline for getting the plan adopted (see attached document “Adoption Steps”).

We will review the draft plan at next month's meeting.

John Brennan from NYS Ag and Markets would like to come to our next meeting—Jen will contact him and see what time is best. Committee members present tonight are available at 7:00 pm, or at 1:00 pm if Mr. Brennan prefers to come down during the day.

● **To Do**

Nan: write up a synopsis of the plan to distribute

Tanya: hand out synopses at the CCE and Farm Bureau functions.

Nan and Jen: write up a press release

Jill: distribute the press release to the newspapers

All committee members: review the implementation table and make suggestions

All committee members: send photos of farms and farmers to Nan, your town supervisor, or County Planning ASAP, for inclusion in the plan. Be sure to indicate which town the photo represents!

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 15th. Time and Place TBA.