

Schoharie County Planning & Development Agency



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Seward and Carlisle Agricultural Committee Meeting
February 23, 2009 Schoharie County Planning office

Attendance:

Committee: Linda Cross, Larry Bradt, Richard Bates, Larry Phillips, Mac Holmes
Consultant: Laura Ten Eyck
County: Zach Thompson
Audience:

Start: 7:11 pm

Larry Phillips moved to have the 1-26-09 minutes approved; seconded by Linda and approved unanimously.

The interview process is ongoing – due to scheduling conflicts they may not be completed before the public meetings.

Carlisle inventory has been on hold while they waited for County Planning to provide them with maps of agricultural significance. Now that those maps have been provided (see below), Carlisle will work on their inventory to be completed prior to the March public meeting.

The definition of ag. was discussed – interest remains in referring to the Ag. and Markets definition, however there is concern that the gross earnings and acreage minimums are unnecessary. Laura mentioned other towns wanting a distinction between large and small farms (or, perhaps more accurately, full-time and part-time/hobby farmers) – it is recommended that the definition contain different categories of farms in the definition.

Zach presented some maps specific to each town for them to keep. One map showed ag. districts and parcels receiving an ag. exemption, another showed soil types, and the last was an aerial photo with parcel lines. The committee liked having the ag. districts and ag. exemptions together, and the aerial photo/parcel map, but would like to see the soils on the same map as ag. exemptions, as well as a detailed key for the soils (unless a different soil layer that requires less explanation is used – such as prime soils of agricultural significance vs. soils that are not conducive to agriculture).

County Planning will do the press releases and public notices for both Carlisle and Seward in the specific manners requested by the respective Towns. Zach will send short notices to the My Shopper, Times Journal, and Daily Gazette for each town as well as full press releases to all publications on the press list (separate letters for each town, with Carlisle's going out a couple of days earlier).

The public meeting agenda was discussed and an outline was decided upon. The Town Supervisors will open their respective meetings and be followed by a short presentation by a committee member with extensive agricultural experience and knowledge. Laura will follow this with a SWOT analysis. The meeting will go over the basics of the plan, funding, the collaboration between the two towns, and farming details. Public feedback will be integral in deciding on goals of the plan as well as strategies to achieve those goals. Zach will be in charge of sign-ins, map displays, easel and markers, and other logistical needs.

The meeting closed at 8:50.

Carlisle public meeting is March 18, 2009.

Seward public meeting is March 23, 2009.

Next Joint-Committee meeting March 30, 2009

For the Next meeting:

Discuss goals for the Plan

Soils expert

Request for advance

Meeting minutes online

TBD after public meetings