



Progress Report
Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan Development

Towns of Seward and Carlisle
March 17, 2009

Prepared by Laura Ten Eyck, Field Consultant, American Farmland Trust

Farmer and Landowner Interviews Underway

Laura Ten Eyck, of AFT, began farmer/landowner interviews on January 15th. To date she has interviewed Lester Hay, Eric and Cindi Shelley, Randy Broadwell, Herman Schroer, Stuart and Karl Tillapaugh, Art Graulich and Bob Smith from Carlisle and Jim Robinson and Dan France from Seward. After the interviews are completed Laura will write a summary of the findings. The interviews are confidential and although quotes may be used to illustrate certain points they will not be attributed.

Public Meetings

The Carlisle public meeting will be held on March 18th at 7:00 at the Carlisle Fire House. The Seward public meeting will be held on March 23rd at 7:00 at Seward Town Hall. The joint committee meeting will be rescheduled to March 30. Zachary Thompson of the Schoharie County Planning Department has placed notices of the public meetings in the local newspapers.

Each meeting will open with a general introduction from the town supervisor during which committee members, the consultant, and the Schoharie County Planning Department staff will be introduced. The supervisor will explain how the towns came to collaborate in the development of their agriculture and farmland protection plans and how the project is being funded. Laura has provided each town supervisor with a list of points to cover in their introductions.

A representative from each committee (Linda Cross for Carlisle and Rick Bates for Seward) will then speak at the respective meetings about the process of developing an agriculture and farmland protection plan and the role of community input. Laura Ten Eyck will then lead the group in a SWOT analysis and record the findings. Laura will then outline the next steps in the plan development. Laura, Zach and the committee members will answer any questions participants may have. The meetings will end with general discussions.

Arrangements for refreshments to be served at the meeting were also made. Zach will bring an easel, a large pad of paper, and colored markers as well as take care of signing in attendees. Zach will also display the maps at the public meetings so that the community can review them.

Mapping

Zach presented the committee members with maps specific to each town for them to keep. One map depicted agricultural districts and parcels receiving agricultural. Exemptions. Another map showed soil types. A third map was an aerial photo with parcel lines. The committee requested soils to appear on the same map as the agricultural districts and agricultural exemptions so they could see if there were prime agricultural soils that were not in agricultural districts or being farmed. The committee also requested a key to the soil types to appear on the map.

Inventories Reaching Completion

The Town of Seward's committee has finalized its inventory of agriculture in the town. The Town of Carlisle committee is finalizing its inventory using maps provided by Schoharie County.

Next Steps

Complete Interviews/March-April

Interview Summary/*April*
Review Maps/*March*
Public Meetings/*March*
Assess Public Input/*March*
Draft Goals for Plan/*March-April*

Next Seward/Carlisle Joint Executive Committee Meeting: March 30, 2009

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