

Town of Caroline  
Agriculture Advisory Board  
September 15, 2022  
Caroline Town Hall  
7 pm

Attendees: Chair Andrew Dygert, Liaison Katherine Goldberg-Forrest, Members Don Barber, Erica Frenay, Pete Hoyt, Wil Lawrence, Matt Mix  
Welcome guests Barry Goodrich, Kathy Mix, Cal Snow, Tony Tavelli

### **General Update**

**Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan:** Ms. Frenay has been in touch with Mr. Kehoe at NYSDAM and made minor changes to proposal budget at his recommendation, mainly with respect to in-kind time.

**Possible Meeting with State Assembly person Anna Kelles:** Ms. Frenay intends to put us on Kelles' calendar. Ms. Goldberg-Forrest has the link. Mr. Barber suggested that legislators can help by making inquiries if the grant process bogs down.

### **Main Discussion,**

**-questions provided by Ms. Frenay**

**-the role of Agriculture Advisory Board (goals and mission)**

**-and the role of agriculture in Caroline**

Mr. Mix suggested the group focus on a short-term goal of making an immediate recommendation to the town on what may or may not be restricted as support for farmers. This would then be followed by the long-term goal of recommending a formal plan.

Responding to Ms. Goldberg-Forrest's point that the Zoning Commission has left room for future alterations to the draft zoning law, there was discussion regarding whether it was worthwhile to challenge the view that the draft law was ag-friendly. Instead, people were encouraged to voice their individual opinions to the Board and the Commission.

Questions raised:

When you are done with farming, what do you do with your land, especially after investing years of time and dollars into the land? What are the intentions of the more restrictive State laws pertaining to food processing, handling, preparation and sale? How many of those rules are the result of large commercial food enterprise activity?

Are vertical greenhouses farming?

Are slaughterhouses in the draft zoning law?

Suggestions offered:

Advocate more by standing up for agricultural activity.

Educating non-farmers is at the heart of many avenues of improving the culture of agriculture in the town.

Look into the Farm to Consumer Legal Defense Fund ([www.farmtoconsumer.org](http://www.farmtoconsumer.org)) that supported the first municipality in Maine to enact Food Sovereignty laws.

Look into Dirt Capital Partners ([www.dirtpartners.com](http://www.dirtpartners.com)) who finance continuation of active farmland.

There was general agreement on some concepts:

An agriculture protection plan can identify legal requirements needing to be removed or changed.

Developing an ag plan would be a two-year commitment.

It would be worthwhile to investigate how the Town might be able to provide an “umbrella” of more appropriate regulation compared to current State requirements.

During discussion, the group examined the themes found in the responses to Ms. Frenay’s questions (September 14 email attachment) and agreed on a draft vision statement for Caroline agriculture: farmers thriving in a town culture of agriculture. A mission statement was also attempted that Ms. Frenay will further refine for the next meeting: Caroline is a place where we as a town support farming, where diverse agricultural enterprises thrive in all sizes and healthy forms, including businesses associated with agriculture and unique and creative use of the town’s topography, with reduced regulation.

**Items brought up by attendees**

**Food Policy Council follow-up:** Mr. Barber announced that a Food System Summit to be held at Class Park on Tuesday September 27 at 5 pm would feature Ms. Frenay among the speakers. (See announcement below.)

**Food Sovereignty Presentation:** Ms. Lawrence passed around an announcement about a Food Sovereignty-related gathering on September 20 at Stone Bend farm in Newfield. (See announcement below.; highly recommend checking out their website!)

**Respectfully submitted,**

Wil Lawrence

Ad hoc Secretary

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**Food System Summit: Moving Forward Together, at Stewart Park, September 27, 2022**

(ITHACA, NY September 12, 2022) – The Tompkins Food Future team and community partners invite the public to a celebratory learning and networking event on Tuesday, September 27th at 5 pm at the Stewart Park large pavilion. The event is free with a light meal provided; an [RSVP](#) is required.

The event aims to enable stakeholders and leaders from throughout the food system to learn from one another and build connections in our shared work to strengthen the local food system. Our hope is that this gathering provides opportunities to build and strengthen relationships, network, identify opportunities for collaboration, and create community.

Following a brief overview of the [\*Tompkins County food system plan: a roadmap for our food future\*](#), speakers from the following organizations will share a 5-minute presentation on their work in the food system:

Cayuga Health Partners

Cornell Cooperative Extension Tompkins County

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CCE Harvest NY

Cornell Small Farms  
Food Policy Council  
Food Bank of the Southern Tier  
Friendship Donation Network  
Groundswell  
Headwater  
Ithaca Farmers Market  
Shelterbelt Farm  
The Learning Farm  
Tompkins County Legislature  
Tompkins County Recycling and Materials Management  
Youth Farm Project

Afterward, we will open up the session for informal networking and conversation. We'll have the pavilion until 8pm. Please let us know you're coming by visiting: [www.tompkinsfoodfuture.org/rsvp](http://www.tompkinsfoodfuture.org/rsvp) or go directly to this form: <https://forms.gle/SaATwffcJVQf6xAz8> (Please note, seating is limited).

For more information about Tompkins Food Future, visit [www.tompkinsfoodfuture.org](http://www.tompkinsfoodfuture.org) or contact Katie Hallas, Community Food System Planner, at (607) 272-2292 ext. 281 or [kh788@cornell.edu](mailto:kh788@cornell.edu).

Thank you for sharing this widely!  
Katie (Stoner) Hallas  
*Community Food System Plan Coordinator*  
[Tompkins Food Future](#)

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**Subject: Food Sovereignty Fundrasier Tuesday the 20th  
5-8pm @ Stone Bend Farm**

[RSVP](#)

Dear Friends,

Garden's Edge welcomes you to join us for a family gathering and Food Sovereignty Fundraiser at Stone Bend Farm in Newfield, NY on Tuesday, September 20th from 5-8pm. Suggested donation, \$20/adult, \$5/child or \$50/family includes a Latin American inspired dinner, amaranth seed cleaning and popping demonstration, guest speakers from Guatemala, and live music with Carlos Gutierrez. The space is very well ventilated with outdoor seating options. Masks are optional and RSVPs are appreciated.

[Garden's Edge](#) is a 501(c)(3) working in solidarity with farmers from Guatemala to protect seeds, soil, water, and culture since 2007.

Join Julian Vasquez Chun, Maya Achi Farmer, and Valentina Chay, Maya Quiché and Achi Traditional Healer from Guatemala to hear their stories of building resilience through seed saving, traditional medicine, and water restoration. Come learn the story of the Amaranth seed and the farmers that have cultivated it for millennia.

During their visit to the Haudenosaunee Territory, the group will spend time at community farms and gardens, including Ganondagan and the White Corn Project, Cayuga SHARE farm, The Youth Farm Project, Onondaga Nation Farm, Friends of Farmworkers House, Groundswell Center for Local Food & Farming, and Quarter Acre for the People, exchanging stories and practices, and rekindling relationships along the traditional trade routes of the Americas. This is a fundraiser to support the work of Garden's Edge in Guatemala, all donations are tax deductible.

Schedule:

5:00 - 5:30 - Welcoming words

5:30 - 6:30 - Seed Cleaning and Popping Demonstration with live music by Carlos Gutierrez  
6:30 - 7:30 - Latin American Inspired Dinner  
7:30 - 8:00 - Guest Speakers

[Stone Bend Farm](#) 196 Porter Hill Rd, Newfield, NY 14867

Special thanks to the following local businesses for their generous donations:

Stone Bend Farm  
Remembrance Farm  
Trumansburg Main Street Market  
The Dish Truck  
and to Carrie Stearns for helping organize this event!

<https://facebook.com/CulturalRevitalization> <https://instagram.com/thegardensedge> <https://gardensedge.org>

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**[The Garden's Edge](#)**