

**MINUTES. AND HERE THEY ARE,** the draft minutes of the January 11 ag committee meeting:

Town of Caroline  
Agriculture Advisory Board  
January 11, 2023  
Caroline Town Hall  
7:00 - 9:00 pm

Member Attendees: Erica Frenay (Chair), Emily Adams, Don Barber, Jonathan Bates, Peter Hoyt, Wil Lawrence

Additional attendees: Crystal Buck (Cooperative Extension Farmland Protection and Ag Marketing Educator), Ed Cope, Justine Lundsted, Ryan Lundsted, Nancy Munkenbeck, Monika Roth (Ag Plan Coordinator), Mark Witmer, Brad Yentzer

#### **Next steps for completion of Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan**

Ms Roth briefly reviewed a previously distributed guide, "What are Key Elements of a Good Municipal Agricultural Protection Plan," remarking that most elements have been addressed by the committee thus far. She outlined the steps of the approval process that includes reviews of the plan document by the public, County, Town Board and NYSDAM, in addition to its approval by the Committee. Ms. Buck is working on a draft document modeled on Lansing's plan. Plan chapters will be expected to include an introduction, a profile of the Town's agriculture, documentation of the Town's current policies, recommendations going forward, and some profiles of local farmers. Ms. Roth suggested that there are still farmers to be interviewed and farms to be selected for sidebar stories before the Plan is completed. She also suggested that appendices to the Plan include references and some general descriptions of farmland protection strategies in New York State. She proposed to make the preliminary draft of the plan available to committee members using google docs, even though the draft would not be ready for committee comment.

#### **Definition of Agriculture and vision statements**

After discussion about the definition of agriculture, Mr. Bates agreed to attempt a revised definition, though there was a mixed feeling about the merits of a summarizing definition versus one that was detailed and explicit. Specific edits were offered and accepted for the vision statements. It was agreed that the vision statements relating to "responsible autonomy" and stewardship would be revisited and put on a future meeting agenda. The discussion generally reflected a desire to recognize, value and support the ingenuity and enterprise of local

farmers and landowners. It was pointed out that while town law may not align with the vision statements, Plan recommendations and goals should.

### **2024 Timeline**

A suggested timeline for 2024 was distributed by email with the agenda. In the context of the proposed timeline steps for Plan completion, Mr. Barber asked that the Committee take the time as a group to figure out which the recommended actions developed under consideration are doable and which are aspirational. It was suggested that details for a proposed public meeting in April would need to be nailed down at the February meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 8, at 7 pm in the town hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Wil Lawrence

Ad Hoc Secretary