

Adopted Minutes
Cayuga County Ag & Farmland Protection Board
Tuesday, April 30, 2019, 10:00 A.M.
5th Floor, Conference Room
Cayuga County Office Building
Auburn, NY 13021

Board Members Present:

Kelly Anderson, Chair (Cayuga County Real Property Services, Director)
Steve Lynch (Cayuga County Planning & Economic Development, Director)
Jason Cuddaback, *designee* (Chairperson of the Board of Directors CCSWCD)
Craig Culver (Farmer Representative)
John O'Connell, III (Farmer Representative)
Thane Benson (Farmer Representative)

Others present:

Kari Terwilliger (CCPED Staff to AFPB)

Absent:

Andrew Dennison (Cayuga County Legislator)
Jeff Ten Eyck (Agricultural Land Preservation Organization Representative)
Dennis Eckel (Agribusiness Representative)
Christopher Gross (Farmer Representative)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Kelly Anderson at approximately 10:00 A.M. with a quorum of members present.

2. Approval of Minutes - February 6, 2019 meeting

Kelly Anderson asked the Board if they had reviewed the minutes from the February 6, 2019 meeting and if they had any questions, comments, or corrections to make. There were none. She asked if there was a motion to approve said minutes. **Steve Lynch made a motion that the minutes from February 6, 2019 be accepted as written. Motion seconded by Thane Benson. Motion carried.**

3. Town of Sterling NOI - Water District 2

Kelly Anderson asked Kari Terwilliger to review this agenda item with the Board. Kari asked if everyone had a chance to review the NOI materials that she had provided to them and if they had any questions. She reviewed the map provide by the engineer and the highlighting of active agricultural parcels in the proposed water district, at least according to the property class codes used by the local assessor. She also reviewed the two maps she prepared for the Board that better show the extent of the county agricultural district and an aerial image from 2015. She mentioned that according to the NOI, the Town should be willing to adopt a lateral restriction law, and explained what that was and how it applied to land in the County Agricultural District. She mentioned that unlike other communities recently, that this NOI did not mention contaminated well/ground water, but rather poor quality water. She also mentioned that the NOI stated that the Town's contractor would coordinate with landowners to mitigate any damage done to field drainage systems as necessary. She stated that according to the NOI the Town seems to be amenable to all of the things that the AFPB routinely asks for in their response letters for water and sewer projects. Kari then passed around a draft letter in response to the NOI and stated that it is basically the same letter that the Board usually sends. Kelly asked if anyone had any other comments or questions; hearing none, she asked for a motion on the matter. **John O'Connell, III made a motion for Kelly Anderson to sign the draft letter in response to the NOI and for Kari Terwilliger to send it to the Town of Sterling, C2AE, and Bob Somers at NYS Ag & Markets. Motion seconded by Craig Culver. Motion carried.**

4. Other Business

Kelly Anderson asked if anyone had any other business to discuss. Kari Terwilliger stated that she has been informed by staff at NYS Agriculture & Markets that the County's 8-Year review of the county agricultural district will begin on June 1, 2019. She stated that she and other staff from her department have begun printing maps and developing materials for the beginning of the process which is a 30-day public and municipal review period. She explained that all municipalities with land in the district will receive a packet with a current map, copy of the public notice, and other materials including a copy of the form that will be sent to farmers and one to request that property be removed from the district. She reminded the Board that while parcels may be added to the district annually during the month of March; that they may only be removed from the district once every 8 years when this review is conducted. Kari then briefly outlined the overall schedule for the review and said that she will be scheduling meetings with the Board as necessary throughout the process, but not likely until later this summer. She also stated that she will be sending copies of materials and summary of review activities to the Board to keep them apprised of the process.

Kelly mentioned that some Board members had been having trouble receiving attachments for meeting materials via email, and asked if Kari could create a subpage on the Planning Department website for the AFPB where meeting materials, agendas, and minutes could be posted. Kari stated that she could work on that.

Kari reminded the Board that they had supported a grant application by NYALT last year to host a workshop/resource fair for areas farmers with the intent of connecting retiring farmers to new and beginning farmers; and providing each group with the tools necessary to help with farmland transition. She stated that she is working with Amy Olney from NYALT, staff from both the Cayuga County and Seneca County CCE, and staff from BOCES and the Community College to coordinate and host this event in early August 2019. She said that once an agenda has been finalized she will share it with the Board.

5. Adjournment

Kelly Anderson asked if there was any further discussion or business to come before the Board. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to adjourn. **Steve Lynch made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Jason Cuddaback. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 10:35 A.M.**

Minutes prepared by Kari Terwilliger