

Adopted Minutes
Cayuga County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board
Thursday, January 19, 2023, 10:00 A.M.
6th Floor Caucus Room 1
Cayuga County Office Building
Auburn, New York

Board Members Present:

Andrew Dennison (Cayuga County Legislator)
Jennifer Indelicato (Cayuga County Real Property Services, Director)
Steve Lynch (Cayuga County Planning & Economic Development, Director)
Jason Cuddaback, (CCSWCD)
Dan Welch (CCE Agriculture Educator Representative)
Craig Culver (Farmer Representative)
Christopher Gross (Farmer Representative)

Others present:

Kari Terwilliger (CCPED Staff to AFPB)

Absent:

Dennis Eckel (Agribusiness Representative)
Jeff Ten Eyck (Agricultural Land Preservation Organization Representative)
Vacant (Farmer Representative) x2

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Kari Terwilliger at approximately 10:00 A.M. with a quorum of members present. Kari reminded the Board that this meeting serves as the annual organizational meeting.

2. Elect a Chair of the Board for 2023

Kari mentioned that historically, the Chair of the Board has been either a farmer or a member that works closely with farmers and that she felt it would be great to have such representation as the Chair again. Kari reminded the Board of the discussion they had last year about appointing Jason Cuddaback as Chair citing his work with farmers and history on the Board, she then asked if there were any volunteers or if there were any nominees. **Andrew Dennison made a motion to appoint Jason Cuddaback as Chair of the Cayuga County AFPB for 2023. Motion seconded by Steve Lynch. Motion carried.**

3. Re-Appointments- 3 Board Members Terms Ended on 12-31-22

Kari Terwilliger informed the Board that terms for Jeff Ten Eyck, Dennis Eckel and Christopher Gross ended on December 31, 2022. She also stated that she had email correspondence from both Jeff and Dennis stating that they are both willing to serve another term should the Board chose to re-appoint them. She then asked Christopher if he was willing to serve another term also, he stated that he was. **Steve Lynch made a motion to re-appoint Jeff Ten Eyck, Dennis Eckel and Christopher Gross each to the Cayuga County AFPB for another full term. Motion seconded by Dan Welch. Motion carried.**

4. New Appointments- Recommendations for 2 Vacant Farmer Seats

Kari Terwilliger reminded the Board that there are still two (2) vacant farmer positions on the Board that need to be filled. She asked the Board if they had reached out to any farmers to see if anyone was interested in serving. The Board asked Kari to follow up with former member Thane Benson to see if he would be interested in serving another term. The Board also asked new Chair Jason Cuddaback to reach out to farmers as well to find a candidate for the other vacant seat. Kari stated that she will re-circulate the informational packet to the Board that they can use when speaking with potential farmer candidates.

5. Approval of Minutes –June 6, 2022 meeting

Kari Terwilliger asked the Board if they had reviewed the minutes from the June 6, 2022 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. **Jennifer Indelicato made a motion that the minutes from June 6, 2022 be accepted as written. Motion seconded by Dan Welch. Motion carried.**

6. County PDR 2022 Pre-Application Review

Kari Terwilliger briefly reviewed the pre-application process with the Board and the previously agreed upon procedures for supporting new farms for state applications, mentioning the establishment of a larger “pool” of supported applicants starting with the last round, that new farms can apply annually, and existing applicants will be contacted annually for any updated information on the farm operation that the county may need. Kari stated that she received a total of two (2) pre-applications this year, one of which was referred to her by FLLT who had contacted the farm to see if they would be interested in working with the land trust to protect their land adjacent to Carpenter Falls. She also mentioned that she has been in contact with the new Executive Director at NYALT, Ms. Brandy Colebrook who was able to confirm that the NYALT Board intends to submit 3-5 applications to the state for PDR funding this spring. Kari also stated that if the Board voted to support one or both of this year’s pre-applications that they would be added to the “pool” of supported farm pre-applications and all information from the pre-application file as well as the summary table she prepared would then be sent to both NYALT and FLLT for their consideration. She reminded the Board that the “pool” will remain active and all farms available to be selected by either land trust at any time, for any round of future funding, so long as the farmer/landowner wants to remain in the “pool”. Lastly, Kari mentioned that she recently read in The Citizen where the Post Farm in Scipio, which submitted a Cayuga County pre-application in 2016 and 2017, has donated their development rights to FLLT and that farm will now be permanently protected. **Jennifer Indelicato made a motion to support both pre-applications, adding them to the established “pool” of previously supported pre-applications, and for Kari to send all related information on to both NYALT and FLLT. Motion seconded by Andrew Dennison. Motion carried.**

7. Other Business

Kari Terwilliger stated that she had one announcement for the Board. She stated that she was working on the Implementation Report for the Cayuga County Agriculture & Farmland Protection Plan and that she reached out to all the partners who have until the end of the month to send her their updated for 2019-2022. She stated that she will send the plan to the Board and to the County Legislature for their information once it is complete. Kari asked if anyone had anything else they would like to discuss. The Board discussed how property assessment values and the lease rates for adjacent farmland may be impacted by the recently approved Garnet Energy solar project in Conquest, noting that they are not quite sure how the land will be assessed but that a likely PILOT agreement should set the code and rates for the parcels that are part of the solar project. Concerns about the adequacy of decommissioning plans for the Conquest project as well as smaller solar projects in the county were also discussed and who would ultimately be held responsible 20-30 plus years from now. The Board also discussed concerns they have over potential residential growth along either the NYS Route 370 or NYS Route 31 corridors and the impacts on rural lands, noting the need for municipalities to start implementing Smart Growth techniques and restrictions on future residential and non-residential development on large farm parcels. Lastly, Jason Cuddaback mentioned that he and Kari participated in a webinar the previous morning hosted by NYSDAM on a change they are making to the Farmland Protection Implementation Program (FPIG), which is the program where the PDR funding comes from, related to environmental conservation. NYSDAM will now require, beginning with the next round of funding this spring, all funded farms to complete an AEM Tier 3 Conservation Plan and include a certification to such as part of the complete project file prior to closing on the project. This will give farmers/landowners and SWCDs at least 2 years once the farm is under contract with the state to get this work done, if it was not already done prior to the submittal of the grant application. The Cayuga County AFPB’s current PDR pre-application process requires applicants to have at least Tier 1 and Tier 2 complete to be eligible to apply and they are awarded points for Tier 3 and beyond. The Board asked Kari to update the PDR webpage to add this new requirement from NYSDAM and links to the files and presentation the state has shared.

8. Adjournment

Kari Terwilliger asked if there was any further discussion or business to come before the Board. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to adjourn. **Andrew Dennison made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Craig Culver. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 10:36 A.M.**

Minutes prepared by Kari Terwilliger, staff to the AFPB