

DRAFT Minutes
Cayuga County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board
Thursday, April 13, 2023, 10:00 A.M.
6th Floor Caucus Room 1
Cayuga County Office Building
Auburn, New York

Board Members Present:

Jennifer Indelicato (Cayuga County Real Property Services, Director)
Jason Cuddaback, (CCSWCD), **Chair**
Dan Welch (CCE Agriculture Educator Representative)
Dennis Eckel (Agribusiness Representative)
Craig Culver (Farmer Representative)
Christopher Gross (Farmer Representative)

Others present:

Kari Terwilliger (CCPED Staff to AFPB)

Board Members Absent:

Andrew Dennison (Cayuga County Legislator)
Steve Lynch (Cayuga County Planning & Economic Development, Director)
Jeff Ten Eyck (Agricultural Land Preservation Organization Representative)
Thane Benson (Farmer Representative)
Vacant (Farmer Representative)

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Kari Terwilliger at approximately 10:06 A.M. with a quorum of members present.
2. **Approval of Minutes –January 19, 2023 meeting:** Kari Terwilliger asked the Board if they had reviewed the minutes from the January 19, 2023 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. **Dennis Eckel made a motion that the minutes from January 19, 2023 be accepted as written. Motion seconded by Jason Cuddaback. Motion carried.**
3. **Ag District Annual Inclusion of Property into District Requests:** Kari Terwilliger briefly reviewed the one request that the county received this year to include 7.02 acres of viable active farmland on Marsh Road in Sterling into the Cayuga County Agricultural District. She asked the Board if anyone had any questions or concerns about the request. Kari asked if there was any further discussion on the matter, there was none. She asked for a motion on the resolution before the Board which supports the addition of this parcel in Sterling into the county Agricultural District. **Dennis Eckel made a motion to approve the resolution as written, recommending that the County Legislature approve of the one request to add the one 7.02 acre parcel to the Cayuga County Agricultural District. Motion seconded by Dan Welch. Motion carried.**
4. **Other Business:** Kari Terwilliger asked if anyone had any other business to discuss or any announcements. The Board briefly discussed the status of recently approved and pending solar projects in the county. Specifically, the Board mentioned that some farmland adjacent to the Conquest project may be purchased outright instead of leased by either Garnet Energy or another company- there have been some rumors amongst landowners there; and the Board discussed the property tax implications that some farmland owners may face with the loss of their agricultural tax exemptions and possible penalties if they were not receiving that exemption for at least 10 years before converting the land to solar. There was also a brief discussion about PILOTs for solar and the County’s process vs the County IDA’s process. Kari gave the Board a quick update on PDR by sharing that she has heard from staff at both the Finger Lakes Land Trust (FLLT) and the New York Agricultural Land Trust (NYALT) that their respective boards are considering at least 3 farms in the county for state applications, and that the RFA from the state is expected closer to May now.
5. **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. **Jennifer Indelicato made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Craig Culver. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 10:21 A.M.**

RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL OF THE INCLUSION OF LAND INTO CAYUGA COUNTY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

Motion by: Dennis Eckel, Cayuga County Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board

WHEREAS, during the annual inclusion period between March 1, 2023 and March 30, 2023 the Cayuga County Department of Planning & Economic Development received applications for the inclusion of 1 parcel of real property into the Cayuga County Agricultural District. A list of the property, its corresponding tax map number, owner, and the town in which it is located is attached here to; and

WHEREAS, the viability of the soils for agricultural production and the current use of the requested parcel has been reviewed and the requested parcel has highly productive soils and is currently in agricultural production; and

WHEREAS, the inclusion of the requested parcel is consistent with the goals of the 2014 Cayuga County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the one said parcel is predominately viable agricultural land as defined by Article 25AA §303-b of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law; and be it further

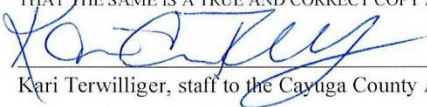
RESOLVED, that the Cayuga County Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board recommends that the Cayuga County Legislature adopt a resolution to add the parcel, into the Cayuga County Agricultural District.

Cayuga County Agricultural District				
2023 Inclusion Requests				
Tax ID #	Acres	Location	Owner Name	Municipality
2.00-1-3.163	7.02	Marsh Rd	Heirloom Hill Orchard, LLC	Sterling
Total:		7.02 acres		

Second by: Dan Welch, Cayuga County Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board

Votes For: 6 Votes Against: 0

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I HAVE COMPARED THE FOREGOING COPY OF A RESOLUTION DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE AGRICULTURE & FARMLAND PROTECTION BOARD OF CAYUGA COUNTY AT A MEETING HELD ON THE 13th DAY OF APRIL, 2023, WITH THE ORIGINAL RESOLUTION, AND THAT THE SAME IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY AND TRANSCRIPT THEREOF, AND THE WHOLE THEREOF.



Kari Terwilliger, staff to the Cayuga County Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board

DATED: April 13, 2023