

Adopted Minutes  
Cayuga County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board  
Tuesday, May 4, 2021, 3:00 P.M.  
Via Conference/Video Call

**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)  
Dennis Eckel (Agribusiness Representative)  
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)  
Dan Welch (CCE Agriculture Educator Representative)  
Jeff Ten Eyck (Agricultural Land Preservation Organization Representative)  
Christopher Gross (Farmer Representative)

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Kari Terwilliger at approximately 3:04 P.M. with a quorum of members present.

**2. Elect a Chair of the Board for 2021**

As it was the first meeting of the year, Kari Terwilliger called for nominations for Chair for 2021. Thane Benson nominated Kelly Anderson. There were no other nominations. **Thane Benson made a motion to elect Kelly Anderson as Chair of the Cayuga County Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board for 2021. Motion seconded by John O'Connell, III. Motion carried.**

**3. Approval of Minutes –December 8, 2020 meeting**

Kelly Anderson asked the Board if they had reviewed the minutes from the December 8, 2020 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 December 8, 2020 be accepted as written. Motion seconded by Thane Benson. Motion carried.**

**4. Distributed Suns, LLC, Cayuga-Sterling Solar 1, LLC and Distributed Suns, LLC, Cayuga-Sterling Solar 2, LLC; solar projects in the Town of Sterling NOIs {2 projects side by side}**

Kelly Anderson asked if everyone had reviewed the NOI and asked Kari Terwilliger to provide the Board with a brief background of the projects. Kari reviewed briefly with the Board the information she had on the projects and their review history to date with the Town Planning Board, from what she read in their minutes, and from the Cayuga County GML 239-1, m & n Review Committee meeting, for which she is a Board Member. Kari mentioned that the major concerns from both the Town Planning Board and the GML 239 Committee were in regards to site drainage and visual impacts on the scenic quality of NYS Route 104A from the project. She pointed out to the Board that there seems to be no real visual impact due to the depth of existing trees which remain around the site; but noted that review of the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan was pending with the Town and that it was not available at the time of the GML 239 Review. The Board then discussed the proposed solar projects collectively on approximately 34 acres in the Town of Sterling. Several Board members expressed their concerns about the potential impacts to adjacent wetlands, regulated streams and Pond Hundred from stormwater run-off from the site since the site already drains in those directions and from the plans provided it appears it will continue to do so. The Board also mentioned that they would like to continue to be consistent in their NOI responses by continuing to request that NYSDAM require the contractor to follow NYSDAM's guidelines for pre and post construction and

decommissioning for solar projects. Kelly asked the Board if there was any further discussion. Hearing none, she asked for a motion for a response to NYSDAM and these two solar NOIs. **Dennis Eckel made a motion to have Kari Terwilliger draft a letter in response to NYSDAM regarding the two Distributed Suns, LLC solar projects in the Town of Sterling summarizing the Board's comments made during the meeting and to circulate a draft of said letter to the Board via email for review and final approval and then authorizing Kelly Anderson to sign said letter and finally for Kari to send the letter to NYSDAM on the Board's behalf. Motion seconded by Steve Lynch. Motion carried.**

#### **5. Other Business**

Kelly Anderson asked if anyone had anything else they would like to discuss. Kari gave an update to the Board on her discussions with staff at NYALT and the NYSDAM's recent approach to funding PDR projects with Requests For Applications (RFAs) rather than Requests For Proposals (RFPs) which are highly competitive. She stated that the FRA process might be easier for local farmers to be selected since they are designed as open rounds of funding and applications can be submitted as long as there is money left. She stated that there are specific criteria that will need to be met beyond what the county and state normally require, but that it is different for each RFA. Lastly, she stated that the plan will be to hold annual pre-application rounds in the fall so there is a revolving list of interested farmers and applications to choose from depending on the RFA criteria and that NYALT was asking the other counties to take on this same approach. Kelly thanked Kari for keeping the Board updated and then asked if there were any other announcements. There were none.

#### **6. 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. **John O'Connell, III made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Thane Benson. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 3:30 P.M.**

Minutes prepared by Kari Terwilliger, staff to the AFPB