

Approved Minutes
Cayuga County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board
Thursday, July 22, 2021, 11:00 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) **voted via email**
Steve Lynch (Cayuga County Planning & Economic Development, Director)
Jason Cuddaback, *designee* (Chairperson of the Board of Directors CCSWCD)
Dan Welch (CCE Agriculture Educator Representative)
Dennis Eckel (Agribusiness Representative)
Thane Benson (Farmer Representative)

Others present:

Kari Terwilliger (CCPED Staff to AFPB)
Jenna DeRario (CCPED Staff)

Absent:

Andrew Dennison (Cayuga County Legislator)
Jeff Ten Eyck (Agricultural Land Preservation Organization Representative)
Christopher Gross (Farmer Representative)
Craig Culver (Farmer Representative)
John O'Connell, III (Farmer Representative)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Kari Terwilliger at approximately 11:15 A.M. with a quorum of members present. Kari introduced Jenna DeRario, the newest Planner to the County Planning Department, to the Board and asked the members to briefly introduce themselves to her.

2. Approval of Minutes –May 4, 2021 meeting

Kari Terwilliger asked the Board if they had reviewed the minutes from the May 4, 2021 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 May 4, 2021 be accepted as written. Motion seconded by Dennis Eckel. Motion carried.**

3. Preliminary & Final NOI - Sennett Meadows Senior Apartments, Town of Sennett

Kari Terwilliger asked if everyone had reviewed the NOI, all said that they had. Kari reviewed briefly with the Board the information in the NOI, that the County's GML 239l, m & n Review Committee had reviewed the project as well, and stated that from the information provided in the NOI package from the developer and in the separate package from NYSDAM it appears that the land in question is quite overgrown and has not been in active agricultural production for quite some time. The committee agreed with Kari's assessment and stated that the project seemed like it was proposed in a good location given the history of the property and that the project was not proposed on adjacent active farmland. **Dennis Eckel made a motion to have Kari Terwilliger draft a letter in response to NYSDAM regarding NOI, stating that the AFPB had no comments on this project because the project will not be impacting active agricultural land, authorizing Kelly Anderson to sign said letter, and finally for Kari to send the letter to NYSDAM and the developer on the Board's behalf. Motion seconded by Steve Lynch. Motion carried.**

4. Preliminary & Final NOI - Town of Brutus Water District 2

Kari Terwilliger asked if everyone had reviewed the NOI, all said that they had. Kari reviewed briefly with the Board the information in the NOI and stated that while separate agenda items she felt it would be appropriate for the Board to review all three NOIs from the Town of Brutus at once and send one letter back to NYSDAM if the

Board agreed. The Board did agree to Ms. Kari's proposal and proceeded to review the three NOIs together. The Board discussed that all of the work for the waterlines would occur in the right-of-way of existing roadways or in established 20 foot wide easements. The Board also saw in the correspondence from NYSDAM that the agency would be asking for lateral restrictions and for the contractors to follow NYSDAM's construction standards for these types of projects. The Board briefly discussed that those two items were consistent with what they normally ask for in addition to coordination with landowners and contractors during construction to avoid permanent damage to field tile drainage. **Thane Benson made a motion to have Kari Terwilliger draft one letter in response to NYSDAM regarding all three NOIs from the Town of Brutus, using the typical recommendation language from the AFPB on water projects including a lateral restriction law and coordination during construction to avoid damage to tile drainage, authorizing Kelly Anderson to sign said letter, and finally for Kari to send the letter to NYSDAM and the town on the Board's behalf. Motion seconded by Dan Welch. Motion carried.**

5. Preliminary & Final NOI - Town of Brutus Water District 10

This agenda item was reviewed with agenda item number 4 above.

6. Preliminary & Final NOI - Town of Brutus Water District 11

This agenda item was reviewed with agenda item number 4 above.

7. AFPB Support of NYALT State Application for PDR - Pearce Acres

Kari Terwilliger stated that she had been contacted by NYALT staff several weeks ago about a potential state application for Pearce Acres farm in Aurelius and Springport and anticipating that NYALT may ask for a letter of support she added this item to the agenda. Kari reminded the Board that Pearce Acres was one of four pre-applications in 2017 that the Board supported and sent to NYALT for consideration, pointing out the support letter she included in the agenda packet from 2017, and that this is the final farm on that original list of four which has yet to receive a state award for PDR. Kari asked the Board if they would consider authorizing her to prepare and Kelly Anderson to sign an updated letter of support for the Pearce Acres farm if NYALT did in fact request one in the coming weeks. She informed the Board that the landowner purchased land in Springport so the total acreage would change from the 2017 letter. **Jason Cuddaback made a motion to have Kari Terwilliger draft a letter of support for Peace Acres farm based on the Board's 2017 letter with updated information as necessary, and authorizing Kelly Anderson to sign said letter, and finally for Kari to send the letter to NYALT on the Board's behalf.**

8. Other Business

Kari Terwilliger asked if anyone had anything else they would like to discuss. The Board discussed large-scale solar projects, both those currently undergoing approval and those that are being proposed, in several areas throughout the county, the potential long and short term impacts to agricultural operations and the agricultural economy in the county, the decommissioning process and potential negative impacts to soils and the environment, the potential financial impacts and benefits for landowners and municipalities, and other issues regarding large-scale solar and wind projects in the county and New York State. Kari reminded the Board about 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 plan will be to hold a pre-application round this fall to compile a new list of interested farms, vetted by the AFPB, and that annually starting next year only those who have not submitted a pre-application before will need to complete one in order to be on the list that will be shared with any interested land trust. Kari asked if there were any other announcements. There were none.

9. 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. **Steve Lynch made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Jason Cuddaback. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 11:45 A.M.**