

Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board
January 19, 2018 - MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Terry Ives; Ken Smith; Ken Ryan; Bradd Vickers; Steve Harris;
Sup. John Lawrence; Stan Davis; and Shane Butler.

Guests Present: Sup. Lawrence Wilcox; Sup. George Seneck; and Canice Paliotta

Minutes

Chairman Ives called the meeting to order at 10:07 and asked for any additions or corrections on the December 15, 2017 meeting minutes. Mr. Butler stated there were a couple grammatical errors originally that were fixed. Mr. Vickers made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected, seconded by Sup. Lawrence. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Modification of Agenda

Mr. Vickers made a motion to modify the agenda to say Privilege of the Floor for AFPB members instead of Open Discussion and have an additional agenda item for guests afterwards, seconded by Sup. Lawrence. Discussion followed:

Sup. Lawrence suggested having Chairman's discretion on the additional guest comments. Mr. Vickers stated he would agree with this unless they are already added to the agenda previously for discussion at the meeting.

Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Ag Development Council

Mr. Smith stated there is extra money in the micro-grant budget because of applications being awarded and never completed. There is a total of \$5,000 for this year. In addition to the regular focus, they would like to see a focus on forest related businesses. Anyone interested should contact Mr. Smith.

Farm to Fork, a taste of Chenango event, met with the County Fair. The ADC would like the event to be two days and the fair would like it for more. Farm to Fork will be two days with the possibility of other days being used for other purposes. One day could highlight forestry products. There was a maple production meeting last night. Vermont has some maple operations with 80,000 taps, and some want to have 1 million taps. You can put in about 75 taps per acre in a good sugar bush at a cost of about \$1 per tap.

Sup. Lawrence stated this could be a significant income source for farmers depending on the cost per tap. Chairman Ives stated it is hard for farmers because the timing of sap running is directly before the Spring work period. Farmers don't have the time to manage the woodlot.

Mr. Davis stated there would be no more soldered pans for maple soon. There is legislation coming down the pike to restrict this due to lead concerns. There is so much syrup from last year that nobody is buying it.

Mr. Smith stated the Farm to Fork location could be used for outdoor recreation after the two day FTF event. The Fair wants the space taken for all six days. Mr. Smith will be at the State Fairgrounds for the Outdoor Sportsman's Show promoting outdoor recreation.

Ag District

Mr. Butler stated the 30-day Inclusion period would be held from February 1st to March 2nd. Mr. Vickers asked if a link could be sent to him.

Ag Tour

Mr. Butler stated he spoke to the Wetland Reserve and they would be interested in hosting a stop on the Ag Tour. A biologist would be on site to talk about the project. Chairman Ives spoke to Hanehan's and they expect the facility to be finished and in operation within the next two weeks. Quality Hardwoods is also interested and just needs to know the date.

Sup. Seneck suggested eating at the diner in Mount Upton, Old Mill, or the Sundown Golf Course. Chairman Ives also suggested Tuller's. Mr. Ryan suggested the Old Mill and thought they could do a light buffet of New York agriculture items.

Alternative Agriculture

Mr. Butler stated this item is on the agenda for when Mr. DeClue can attend.

Animal Welfare

Mr. Vickers stated he will talk with Mr. Smith about organizing a meeting with the police officers about this. He will also reach out to SPCA and judges. Mr. Ryan stated that many feel there is no mechanism to protect animals. Education would be helpful. Mr. Ryan will send out the laws he has researched.

Privilege of the Floor - AFPB

Mr. Harris reported on the 480A and 480B forestry programs. The acreage requirement would go to a minimum of 50 acres to 25 acres. 10 acres of the 25 has to be forested and the rest can be open space. Chenango County has about 4,700 parcels which would be impacted. They have capped the STAR growth at 0% and would remain at the level it was for 2017. Changes to the Enhanced STAR exemption could include income verification. Mr. Harris also reported on possible changes to the way the State reimburses locality for State land. If the 480B program is approved, there would be more exemptions and therefore a higher tax rate.

Sup. Lawrence attended the Soil and Water meeting yesterday. In relation to Conservation Reserve Program funding, it is doubtful that what is in existence will go away but the amount of new CRP applications will drop. NRCS is having some tough times right now and isn't sure what their role is. There is an Open House at CCE on March 6th at 10:00 am to tour the refurbished facility.

Mr. Ryan was notified of the Bainbridge-Guilford CSD receiving State money for their Ag Program.

Mr. Vickers attended the American Farm Bureau meeting in Nashville, TN. There was a lot of security since President Trump was in attendance. There were a lot of positive remarks about agriculture. President Trump has removed 22 pieces of legislation for every one added. There are two executive orders relating to expanding broadband. It has been 25 years since the last President attended. Trucking has gone to digital logs which has lots of issues. You may see a lot of people going out of the trucking business.

Chairman Ives stated the cost of milk is going down. There is too much powder in the world. There are some good points in NAFTA but it has to be fair. 14% of dairy production is exported. Chairman Ives asked who would pay for it. There is a lot of powder in Europe too since the quotas were taken off two or three years ago.

Mr. Vickers stated we need to redefine the word milk. Other forms like "almond milk" should be called "almond juice". Sup. Wilcox stated 40% of the dairy case is non-dairy.

Open Discussion

Ms. Paliotta spoke briefly regarding hemp production and the possibility of medical marijuana in New York. There is going to be an industrial hemp complex in Broome County. To be permitted, you must be 20 miles from other forms of marijuana due to the possibility of cross pollination. Ms. Paliotta expressed her frustration regarding the openness of meetings and the feeling of being "the peanut gallery" at meetings.

With no further discussion, Mr. Vickers motioned to adjourn, second by Sup. Lawrence at 11:05 AM.

The next meeting will be held on February 16, 2018 at 10:00 AM.

Minutes prepared by Shane H. Butler, Sr. Planner

Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board
February 16, 2018 - MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Terry Ives; Ken Smith; Ken Ryan; Ken Dibbell; Bradd Vickers; Steve Harris;
Sup. John Lawrence; Sup. Marge Davis; Stan Davis; and Shane Butler.

Guests Present: Sup: Lawrence Wilcox; Sup. George Seneck; Sandy Pierce, and Canice Paliotta

Reorganization

At 10:01 am, Sup. Lawrence made a motion to appoint Donna Jones as temporary chair, seconded by Mr. Vickers. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Ms. Jones asked for nominations for Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary.

Mr. Vickers nominated Terry Ives as Chair, seconded by Mr. Ryan. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Ives nominated Stan Davis as Vice-Chair, seconded by Sup. Lawrence. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Sup. Lawrence nominated Ken Ryan as Secretary, seconded by Mr. Vickers. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Reorganization was closed at 10:04 am.

Minutes

Chairman Ives called the meeting to order at 10:05 and asked for any additions or corrections on the January 19, 2018 meeting minutes. Mr. Ryan made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Sup. Lawrence. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Ag Development Council

Mr. Smith stated \$5,000 has been allocated for micro-grants. If anybody is interested or knows of anybody who might be interested, they should contact Ken Smith. There is an open house at CCE on March 6th from 10am to 3pm. CCE is working with Norwich Meadows on creating a food hub. They are also working with the Amish. The intent is to bundle more foods together including meat, fruits and vegetables, and send it down to larger markets.

Ag District

Mr. Butler stated there have been no applications yet for the Inclusion period.

Ag Tour

Mr. Butler contacted three bus companies to compare prices since Eastern has steadily increased the price to \$950. The lowest price was \$855 by another company and Eastern agreed to match it.

Chairman Ives recommended having the tour on July 20th in place of the Ag and Farmland meeting and starting the tour at CCE.

Mr. Butler asked Mr. Dibbell to contact Chobani and see about a donation. Chairman Ives will talk with Hanehan's and Quality Hardwoods. Hanehan's seemed positive about the tour. They can put 72 cows on the carousel. For 800 cows, the first time took 10 hours but has reduced to 3 ½ hours. Mr. Butler will contact the Wetland Reserve.

Goals

Mr. Ryan asked to talk about the goals of the board now that it's a new year.

Mr. Butler stated we have had a lot of successes this year including FFA with Bainbridge-Guilford and Sherburne-Earlville adding programs, holding the Ag Tour, and additional Amish families interested in coming to Chenango County. Mr. Vickers stated we have also sent a lot of letters to state officials on various topics.

Mr. Vickers read an article regarding the Amish in Pennsylvania whereas they are beginning to leave and this is concerning. Mr. Butler read an email regarding a resident's concerns regarding the Amish in Smyrna. There is nothing the County can do relating to these concerns which were mainly highway related.

Mr. Dibbell recommended the County Board of Supervisors have a presentation to our Governor relating to the dairy industry and the economic impact.

Mr. Smith stated the Chairman of the Planning & Economic Development Committee presented a proposal of goals to the Board of Supervisors at their meeting on Monday, February 12th. It was concerning that agriculture, forestry, and the recreational value of those resources were not mentioned in the goals. Chairman Ives suggested inviting Sup. Khoury to the next meeting.

Mr. Smith asked when the next Ag Census would be available. Mr. Butler stated it took a few years for the normal census to be released and therefore the Ag Census may not be ready for another year or so. When the Ag Census comes out, we may want to think about revising the Ag and Farmland Protection Plan.

Mr. Ryan asked if the Board of Supervisors knows what we do. Sup. Senek stated the Ag, Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting for February was cancelled due to lack of an agenda. Mr. Smith stated he intends on making a monthly presentation to the Committee so that there is always an agenda. The Evening Sun is always asking for stories. Mr. Butler suggested putting some information about the Ag and Farmland Protection Board in the Extension Newsletter every now and then. Sup. Davis suggested the newsletter would reach the farmers.

Mr. Ryan suggested asking the Committee what they would like us to focus on and asked what our role is. Mr. Butler stated the Ag and Farmland Protection Board is mandated by the State and we are required to implement the Ag District Program and work on the Ag and Farmland Protection Plan. We will need to start working on the 8 year review of Ag District 1A probably next year.

Mr. Vickers suggested the Commerce Chenango Economic Forecast Breakfast should have something to do with agriculture in it. We can use that forum to promote agriculture.

Chairman Ives requested members to read through the goals and come back with ideas.

Alternative Agriculture

Chairman Ives stated we are keeping this until Mr. DeClue can attend. Sup. Davis suggested changing this to "New Initiatives".

Animal Welfare

Mr. Vickers stated he and Mr. Smith are putting together a meeting and hope to have someone from NYS Ag and Markets attend to do the training. Mr. Ryan asked if the Sheriff's Office had responded to the letter. Chairman Wilcox stated

Open Discussion - Members

Sup. Lawrence attended the Soil and Water Committee meeting. At the meeting, Mr. DeClue had said there are new training requirements for those who apply any of the new GMO agents to their fields. Previous trainings are not valid for the new ones. Chairman Ives stated there is a new Dicam formulation for soybeans. The old formulation was causing problems. Problems arose depending on wind drift, time of day and air inversion.

Sup. Lawrence suggested having Brian Sheridan come and talk about some issues relating to farming. There is a Federal Bill to pay back money spent by farmers on crop insurance. The bill was sponsored by Senator Kirsten Gillibrand.

Sup. Lawrence stated that FSA is looking to lend farmers money relating to storage projects and materials handling. Projects have to be less than \$250,000 and can be either new or used equipment. USDA has also stated they will pay any commercial bee operation for above average mortality relating to colony collapse. Mr. Vickers asked if vandalism counted.

Mr. Ryan stated there are companies who are growing beef in a lab and still considering it beef. This is concerning.

Mr. Davis stated a new building won't be built at the County Fairgrounds any time soon. They will be using tents again.

Mr. Dibbell asked how many dairy farms were in Chenango County. Mr. Butler stated there were around 200 as of the 2012 Ag Census. (Note: 2012 Ag Census has 184 dairy farms)

Mr. Vickers stated the Farm Show is February 22nd. The Farm Bureau Mid-Winter Meeting will be in Broome County this year on February 21st from 11am – 2pm. They will discuss the 2018 budget and workers compensation issues. It is held at the Broome CCE and lunch is provided. Some changes to the 480B program include allowing “wildlife” such as apple trees which were previously not approved. There is also a timber harvest notification where any time you are harvesting, you must contact NYSDEC. March 5th and 6th are lobby days in Albany including a Taste of NY event. National Agriculture Day is March 20th. The Board of Supervisors had a proclamation approved at the February 12th meeting.

Chairman Ives went to the corn meeting in Cooperstown. In the eight county region we produce 120,000 acres of corn. They talked about nitrogen placement in crops and the benefits of different methods. One presenter also talked about organics. Phosphorus is actually mined and is therefore considered organic. Kevin Ganoie would like to come to the Ag Tour this year. The Dairy Princess Pageant is in Syracuse on February 20th and the American Dairy Association meeting is on the 21st.

Open Discussion - Public

Ms. Pierce has been reading over pertinent information relating to Chenango County and preserving farmland. A lot of it has to do with the farmers getting money relating to it. She has contacted Cortland County to talk with them about their program and why they no longer want to implement it. Ms. Jones suggested contacting Dan Dineen who is the Planning Director.

Ms. Paliotta suggested putting a letter to the editor in the Evening Sun relating to Agriculture Day. Mr. Vickers stated they planned to have an article. Ms. Paliotta recommended having Phil Hoffmeyer do a hemp presentation. There is a lot of frustration with the voice of the Ag and Farmland Protection Board not being heard by Committee.

With no further discussion, Mr. Vickers motioned to adjourn, second by Sup. Lawrence at 11:00 AM.

The next meeting will be held on March 16, 2018 at 10:00 AM.

Minutes prepared by Shane H. Butler, Sr. Planner

Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board March 16, 2018 - MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Terry Ives; Ken Smith; Ken Ryan; Ken Dibbell; Bradd Vickers;
Sup. John Lawrence; Sup. Marge Davis; Stan Davis; and Shane Butler.

Guests Present: Sup: Lawrence Wilcox; Sup. George Seneck; Sally Chirlin, and Canice Paliotta

Minutes

Chairman Ives called the meeting to order at 10:05 and asked for any additions or corrections on the February 16, 2018 meeting minutes. Sup. Lawrence made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Ryan. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Ag Development Council

Mr. Butler stated two microgrants were awarded at the meeting and one was tabled. There was also discussion of the Farm to Fork event which will be at the Chenango County Fair on Friday, Saturday and the tear-down day Sunday.

Ag Inclusions

Mr. Butler sent a letter to NYS Ag and Markets stating there were no applications this year. Nothing further is needed this year.

Ag Tour

Chairman Ives spoke with Hanehan's and July 20th wouldn't work so the new date is July 27th.

Mr. Dibbell will contact Chobani for a donation. Mr. Butler has contacted NBT Bank for a donation and confirmed with Eastern Travel for the bus. Chairman Ives suggested having lunch at the park in Mount Upton and possibly have Tullers cater the lunch. Sup. Seneck also suggested the Old Mill. Mr. Butler stated the budget was quite short and may ask ADC for funding on lunch. Mr. Vickers suggested starting the tour at Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Goals

Chairman Ives asked members to review the goals for next month. Mr. Butler will send out a copy. Mr. Butler will send out copies.

Animal Welfare

Mr. Vickers has spoken with David Smith at NYS Ag and Markets. He has a powerpoint and would come down for a training. Bill Ketzner at the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is another contact and could do a one or two day training for law enforcers. Officers would get credits for attending. He will send bullet points for the training.

Chairman Ives asked how many we could get to attend. Early Spring would be a good time. Mr. Vickers stated we need to talk with the Sheriff's office and also talk with the dog wardens.

Alternative Agriculture

Mr. Butler has invited Paul Romanenko from NYSDEC to come to the May meeting and talk about forestry.

Mr. Smith met with the Amish yesterday. There are a lot of farms with open fields turned into forest and probably 80% is maple. Trees over 8 inches in diameter are tappable. We are more at risk of losing dairy farms in Chenango County compared to other areas.

Sup. Lawrence asked if farmers think if they tap the trees they won't be good saw logs. Mr. Smith agreed. Mr. Butler stated an Amish logger came in the office and said the prices are going up. They use horses when logging and have been doing work in the area.

Mr. Smith stated the economics of maple has changed. You can lease the taps and in some cases people are paying \$1 per tree. Maple is a managed market and a Providence in Canada controls the price because they have the most production. You can only make maple syrup in certain parts of the world and we are one of those locations. We are also one of the only locations in the world where you don't need irrigation for crops.

Mr. Ryan stated the Amish know the economics of our area and still decide to come here and doing a lot of little things like baking cookies, raising bees, lumber, etc. Why can't our farmers do this? Mr. Smith stated it is a tough sell. Our farmers are working extremely hard on their current farm and it's tough to change thoughts. Chairman Ives stated there isn't enough time.

Mr. Smith stated the Amish have kids to help on the farm. They met with the families in Guilford and Edmeston to connect them with Norwich Meadows. The Amish would like to raise livestock and Norwich Meadows wants vegetables. Sup. Seneck stated there are seven families in Guilford and two just over the border in Oxford who entered last fall. They share a lot of their own labor.

Mr. Vickers mentioned the bills being sponsored by Senator Gillibrand to raise the floor price of milk. He wasn't sure the legality of one but will see when the bill comes out.

Sup. Wilcox stated 5 years ago was some of the best times and our government wanted to make us the yogurt capital of the world. Now there is an oversupply of milk. The same is happening with maple syrup. We need to market the product and sell, not produce more.

Mr. Smith stated the demand in other countries for milk was high from 2012 to 2014 and then the consumption dropped. Chairman Ives stated we need to control the production to match the demand.

Mr. Dibbell suggested putting whole milk back in schools to promote brain development. Chairman Ives stated people are starting to see the research. McDonalds took chocolate milk off of the menu because of the number of calories. The push for lowfat milk was brought on by the sugar companies because they want you to just add the sugar to it.

Open Discussion - Members

Chairman Ives attended a conference in Orlando, FL. Since 1984 there has been growth. Pizza Hut has put more cheese on their pizzas, McDonalds switched from margarine to butter, (additional examples were read from fact sheet). Sup. Lawrence asked about other chains like Burger King and Arby's. Chairman Ives stated competition drives the other companies to do it because McDonalds is so big. California has \$1 per person capita to advertise about milk on television and New York has \$.40. The TV ads aren't getting the bang for their buck. The "Got Milk?" campaign was trademarked by California and they are paid for a royalty.

Ms. Davis asked if anybody had received the Rural Futures newsletter. There are a lot of agriculture related articles and people should register if they do not get the newsletter. She asked if the vending machines downstairs offered milk.

Mr. Smith suggested having a representative from Senator Schumer or Gillibrand's Office attend our meetings. Mr. Vickers will contact them. Mr. Dibbell asked if the bills sponsored by Senator Gillibrand could be sent.

Sup. Lawrence stated the Soil and Water Committee did not meet yet and did not have a report.

Mr. Vickers was on a conference call with National Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall. He stressed the need for supporting the dairy industry. Electronic data logging for truck drivers is an issue. There is currently an extension for livestock hauling but they don't include bees which is concerning. He lobbied in Albany recently as part of the Taste of NY event. Chobani represented Chenango County. National Ag Day is the 20th and there will be an event at The Silo at Noon. He invited all to attend. Mr. Vickers attended a meeting regarding hemp. It requires the same ground as corn and the market for corn is higher.

Mr. Smith suggested having Fred Von Mechow from the Chenango Land Trust attend the next meeting.

Open Discussion – Public

With no further discussion, Mr. Vickers motioned to adjourn, second by Sup. Lawrence at 11:27 AM.

The next meeting will be held on March 16, 2018 at 10:00 AM.

Minutes prepared by Shane H. Butler, Sr. Planner

Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board April 20, 2018 - MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Terry Ives; Ken Smith; Ken Ryan; Ken Dibbell; Bradd Vickers;
Sup. John Lawrence; Steve Harris; Stan Davis; and Shane Butler.

Guests Present: Sup. George Seneck; Sup. Pete Flanagan; Fred VonMechow;
Heriberto Rodriguez; Ken Fogarty; Sandy Pierce; and Canice Paliotta

Minutes

Chairman Ives called the meeting to order at 10:05 and asked for any additions or corrections on the March 16, 2018 meeting minutes. Sup. Lawrence made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Ryan. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Chenango Land Trust

Mr. VonMechow gave an overview of the Chenango Land Trust. It formed in 1992 as an idea by Rob DeClue at an Environmental Management Council meeting. In 1994 it was incorporated into a Land Trust. In 1999 it became a permanent non-profit. In 1996 they were awarded the Land Steward Award from their training efforts at various locations across the county.

The first easement of a property was in 1997 on a piece of property in Pharsalia. Now there are a total of ten easements and two properties owned. (A map of the easements was shown later in the meeting.) The first owned parcel consists of 20 acres in the Town of Preston on McCall Pond. The parcel is unique in that it is very bog-like. The second owned parcel is Lock 99, just above the South Oxford Bridge Road in Oxford. The lock is one of the best preserved examples of a lock on the Chenango Canal. They hope to add parking and a short 400 yard trail in order to connect to the Finger Lakes Trail.

The newest easement they control is in the Town of Hamilton. The parcel is owned by the Hamilton Land Trust but land trusts cannot own the land and also hold the easement. Each easement has an agreement between the Land Trust and the owner. The landowner donates the development rights in perpetuity, which in some cases drops the value of the property, and the landowner keeps the rights to the property.

Mr. Vickers asked who pays the land taxes. Mr. VonMechow stated the landowner still pays the taxes but they may reduce if the assessor deems the value has decreased. Mr. Harris stated the properties are assessed by current use, not the buildout potential. Mr. VonMechow stated this can also be a form of charitable donation to the Land Trust based on the change in value of the assessment. One property on Guilford Lake, the appraised value changed by \$500,000. In our area, typically there is little to no change.

Sup. Lawrence asked if they could ever develop if the property was put in a will to a family member. Mr. VonMechow stated it depends on the agreement. There is a no subdivision clause in each easement. The easement doesn't have to run the entire property. Some areas of the property can be sectioned out of the easement so they can be future building lots.

Sup. Lawrence asked what happens if the property gets behind on taxes. Mr. VonMechow stated someone would buy it at tax sale. Many people manage the properties as hunting, forestry, or farming properties. The land still has value, but cannot be developed. Mr. Harris stated these type of properties have sold many times in Cazenovia.

Mr. Ryan asked how the easement is enforced. Mr. VonMechow stated the landowner must maintain the property as agreed. Once a year, the Land Trust must go out and check the property to make sure nothing has changed. This will be done with drones soon so they can be done quicker. One easement is 200 acres at the Endicott IBM Glen site.

Sup. Lawrence asked who generally approaches who about the easement first. Mr. VonMechow stated it is the landowner who typically contacts the trust. They will give the landowner some options on how to proceed; they can do a conservation easement, or they can donate the entire property to the trust and let them resell without the development rights as a form of revenue. The Trust will then do a site visit and talk with the landowner about what rights and restrictions they would like to keep on the property. The landowner would then talk with an attorney and move forward with the easement document which would be finalized and filed with the attorneys, NYSDEC, County Clerk, and the Trust. The easement is filed in six locations. The Trust would then do a baseline report including 10+ maps of wetlands, topography, recreation, water, etc., 50-100 photos of the boundaries and special features, and an overall property description. The report is usually 50-80 pages. The Trust used to have a newsletter but now lacks the volunteers.

Mr. Butler asked what happens if the Trust falls apart with no members. Mr. VonMechow stated the easements would have to be transferred to another qualified trust.

Ms. Pierce asked what role the NYSDEC plays. Mr. VonMechow stated they really don't have a role but want to stay informed.

Mr. Ryan asked what costs were involved with the easement. Mr. VonMechow stated the landowner must have a reliable survey to enforce the boundary. Survey pins would be required and could cost thousands of dollars. The landowner has to hire an appraiser to appraise the property before and after the easement which costs about \$1000. The landowner can also decide to donate the property but it has to be defensible to the IRS. There is no annual maintenance fee but the land trust typically asks for \$4500 depending on the size of the property. Each easement has different circumstances.

Ms. Pierce asked if the Chenango Land Trust had ever been asked to be a part of the two NYS grants for easements. Mr. VonMechow stated they had not and were not aware of the other programs.

Mr. Butler asked what the cost was to the Land Trust to administer the program. Mr. VonMechow stated it costs about \$1500-2000 for the report, about \$500 for the mapping which is hired out, and mileage for the annual visitation. The biggest expense would be defending the easement during conflict involving future owners and neighbors. A legal defense fund is maintained.

Ms. Pierce asked if they ever had to defend the easement. Mr. VonMechow stated they had not had to yet. One landowner wanted to develop a hydropower facility and divert water, they had to advise them this would not be allowed but it did not end up in court.

Sup. Lawrence asked if the landowner could continue farming or let it grow up. Mr. VonMechow stated they could as long as it preserved the property. They could let it grow up unless it was considered a scenic vista which would block the view. This would be written into the easement. Mr. Vickers asked if they could participate in the 480A program. Mr. VonMechow stated they could. Ms. Pierce stated the American Farmland Trust has a waiting list on their easements and participates heavily with farmers. Mr. VonMechow stated nothing can be extracted from the property commercially. Farming would be an exception. Many of these issues are agreed on at a case by case basis.

Sup. Lawrence stated that basically a current landowner has decided what anyone in the future can do with that piece of property. Mr. VonMechow stated yes, but in some cases eminent domain could wipe out the easement.

Mr. Ryan stated that people are very concerned about pollution and global warming. He is surprised it is so difficult and costly to do an easement. The AFPB should be interested in doing this. Our goals should have more promotion of this because we are running out of farm land. We need to pressure our legislators to do more.

Mr. Smith stated many areas of Chenango County don't have the development pressure. Land is not going to fill up with houses quickly. Chairman Ives asked how it worked with mortgaged properties. Mr. VonMechow stated all parties with liens must sign off.

Empire Packing

Mr. Butler stated there is a proposed slaughterhouse/packaging facility being proposed in the Town of Sherburne at the Purdy site. Mr. Butler drafted a support letter based on the goals of the AFPB.

Mr. Smith made a motion to sign the letter supporting the Empire Packing facility, seconded by Mr. Vickers. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Ag Development Council

Mr. Smith stated three projects were awarded microgrants; one relating to maple, one for mushrooms, and a veggie stand.

He spoke with Sen. Gillibrand relating to the Farm Bill and deregulating the milkfat guidelines in schools. Mr. Vickers stated her legislation would go nowhere. Chairman Ives stated in skim milk, they are having to add vitamins. Sup. Lawrence stated there was a misunderstanding of milk labeling at Ag, Buildings, and Grounds Committee. People don't understand the regulation prohibiting the advertising of what whole milk really is. Whole milk is 3.5%.

Chairman Ives stated milk cannot be advertised as 97% fat free. This would be a great way to promote it. The milk promotion groups cannot lobby. Sup. Lawrence stated we should work on changing the policy. Skim milk doesn't entice children to drink more of it. Mr. Smith suggested inviting members of Congress, or their staff, to our meeting to talk with farmers about how this hurts them.

Mr. Smith made a motion to draft a letter to US Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and US Senator Charles Schumer talking about the issues of advertising whole milk and also regulating milk in schools, and invite them to a future meeting, seconded by Sup. Lawrence. Discussion: Mr. Ryan asked if we should also invite the State representatives. Mr. Smith stated it is federally regulated. Mr. Smith will draft the letter and Mr. Butler will proofread. **Members voted all ayes, motion carried.**

Ag Tour

Mr. Butler suggested the Old Mill for lunch since it is a former cotton/grain mill and would fit with the agriculture theme. Mr. Butler asked Chairman Ives to ask Hanehan and Quality Hardwoods for a picture and short bio of their operation for the flier. Mr. Butler asked if meeting at CCE would be a good idea with the bus. Mr. Vickers stated they could pull through onto North Broad and the main entrance should have plenty of room.

Goals and Strategies

Mr. Vickers suggested tabling the goals again and asked for a copy of the 2020 summary report.

Chairman Ives received a set of goals from the Planning & Economic Development Committee. Under the resources section it does not include agriculture. Goal 1.1, this would relate to the presentation today. Goal 1.5 relates to the farmers market. He asked how the farmers markets were working.

Ms. Pierce stated the Wednesday Market had received a microgrant from the Ag Development Council to pay for the liability insurance which will allow farmer vendors and veterans to participate at no cost. For all other types of vendors the fees are on a sliding scale to help pay for city electricity which they used to provide at no cost. Over the last 10-15 years, they have lost 80% of the vendors. Now that there isn't a fee, more vendors have called. Two Amish families have also expressed interest in joining. Mr. Butler stated the Oxford Farmers Market seemed to be doing well.

Ms. Pierce stated there are seven markets in Chenango County. The Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) is no longer available on Saturdays and there is no Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) availability either since Norwich BID officially closed the Saturday farmers market in January 2016. Norwich Farmers Market has been providing the banking for the SNAP program since 2012 when CCE's initial grant ran out and required the market to take over administering the program. Norwich Farmers Market has offered this service to all other county markets. Oxford does not want to do the FMNP or any other governmental agriculture programs at their Saturday market at this time. A few of the other markets are considering doing the programs with Norwich Farmers Market's help.

Chairman Ives asked what we can do locally to help. Ms. Pierce stated that Norwich Farmers Market has offered to provide the EBT/SNAP service at Norwich BID's Saturday events but BID has not been responsive as of yet. Chairman Ives asked if the farmers market could be held at the Fairgrounds. Ms. Pierce stated they don't want to move away from downtown.

Mr. Ryan stated he would like to see more about the presentation done today. He wants to see what has been accomplished.

Chairman Ives stated goal 2.1, promoting grazing, has been done by CCE.

**** Note: Information regarding the Farmers Markets was revised for accuracy and clarity after the meeting. ****

Animal Welfare

Mr. Vickers received information from William Ketzner at ASPCA including a two-day slide presentation. They would be willing to send their legislative person to do a half-day presentation. NYS Ag and Markets has indicated they would be willing to help.

Open Discussion - Members

Chairman Ives stated the Dairy Production Meeting would be held on May 2nd at 1:00pm at the CCE. They will be talking about the

Margin Protection Program (MPP).

Mr. Vickers stated NYS Farm Bureau President Dave Fisher met with the market administrators. There have been a lot of farmer suicides lately. Stress management seminars for farming have begun to pop up. Unadilla Valley CSD will be having an event on May 4th at 6:00pm. Chenango County Farm Bureau will be there with a display. May 6th is Earth Fest at Rogers. The Kids and Calves show will be at the Fairgrounds on June 8th and 10th. The NYS Budget passed with an increase to the Farm to School program. The 10 year exemption on farm buildings is sun-setting soon.

Mr. Butler stated he had a note from Mr. Harris saying the 480B program was not passed in the budget. The bill relating to full payment on new lands acquired at Bowman State Park was passed by the Senate and Assembly and is on the Governor's desk.

Mr. Vickers asked Sup. Flanagan for an update on Bowman Lake. Sup. Flanagan stated there is a one mile stretch of road, basically a driveway to Bowman Lake. The Town of Preston wants them to manage it as a State Road. They recently bought one of the oldest farms in Preston. He is happy to report a farmer is still able to use it. NYS wanted to purchase the land through the Environmental Protection Fund but because the Town had issues with it, they could not. The Town wants to be treated the same way as the towns in the Adirondacks where the full tax is paid. The 480B program is not land protection, It helps those who live elsewhere but own small acreage property in Chenango County. Open land is better for government because it doesn't cost money.

Mr. Ryan stated steel prices are up.

Mr. Dibbell stated some farmers won't have a milk market effective May 31st because of Wal-Mart's new production facility. The Government calculated cost of production is the problem. Pay price is 57% of the cost. Sup. Lawrence asked if new farmers would be able to get commitment letters for their milk. Chairman Ives stated there is too much milk and they would have trouble finding a market. They should find a market before they start the farm.

Open Discussion – Public

Ms. Palliotta stated there is an event on May 7th at the Bohemian Moon relating to hemp production. They will dinner starting at 5:00pm and speakers afterwards. Hemp is not the end all, be all, but it can help.

Mr. Vickers attended the Cornell presentation last month. You have to be a researcher in order to grow hemp right now and it needs well drained, nutrient rich soil.

With no further discussion, Mr. Vickers motioned to adjourn, second by Sup. Lawrence at 12:02 AM.

The next meeting will be held on May 18, 2018 at 10:00 AM.

Minutes prepared by Shane H. Butler, Planning Director

Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board May 18, 2018 - MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Terry Ives; Ken Smith; Ken Ryan; Sup. John Lawrence; Steve Harris; Stan Davis;
Sup. Marge Davis; Rob DeClue; and Shane Butler.

Guests Present: Sup. George Seneck; Sandy Pierce; Ashley Russell; and Paul Romanenko

Minutes

Chairman Ives called the meeting to order at 10:01 and asked for any additions or corrections on the April 20, 2018 meeting minutes. Sup. Lawrence made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Davis. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Introductions

Mr. Smith introduced Ashley Russell, Communications and Outreach Coordinator for CCE Chenango. Should Mr. Smith be absent, Ms. Russell may fill in. Mr. Butler stated they have hired a new person in the Planning Department and he will be attending future meetings.

Forest Stewardship Program

Mr. Romanenko introduced himself. He is a Forester 1 at NYS DEC and works out of the Sherburne field office. There are two primary programs he works on. The first is the Forest Stewardship Program. The program helps to advise landowners on sustainability of their woodlots at no charge. Any private landowner other than industrial can apply and participation is voluntary. Part of the program is an approved Stewardship Management Plan which must meet Federal Forest Service standards. The plan is prepared by NYSDEC and must be filed in the local DEC office.

The plan is long-term. Each plan has a map of the parcel along with designations of differences including soil types, types of trees, etc. Overpopulation of deer is a threat to maple, oak, and some other species of trees. They won't eat the iron wood and some other species. Landowners have a variety of different goals for their property. The process helps the landowner familiarize themselves with standards and forestry concepts. As part of this, NYSDEC will not mark or market your timber. You could be eligible for cost share programs if you have a plan in place. They often cover 50-75% of expenses to implement projects (reimbursement generally). Funding is not guaranteed.

Sup. Lawrence asked what the mindset of the Federal government was to authorize the program. Mr. Romanenko spends up to five days with each landowner. It is hard to show a direct benefit until you add up all of the landowners he has worked with. Good management of forest helps your neighbors and others down the line, and attracts tourism through recreation and hunting. The more people who are involved, the greater the benefit.

Chairman Ives asked what invasive species are being seen. Mr. Ryan stated there are a lot of insects causing problems as well. Mr. Romanenko stated trees aren't typically the problem. The shrub layers like honeysuckle, multi-floral rose and Japanese knot weed are the problem. Norway Maple planted in urban environments is starting to spread into rural areas which could be a problem. Norway Spruce isn't native but isn't invasive. You have to have diversity in a forest.

Chairman Ives stated trees typically grow in stands. Mr. Romanenko stated this isn't typically natural and is caused by abandoned pastures where maybe one tree was left in the middle of the field which had an advantage on others. Most of the forest in our area is second growth forest.

Sup. Seneck asked what a good resource was to know what types of trees to plant and where. Mr. Romanenko stated it depends on the soil type and what you see visually like wet soils. Ms. Pierce asked if they identified all plant life. Mr. Romanenko stated they do but mainly in a forest setting.

Forest Tax Law – 480A

Mr. Romanenko stated 480A has been in effect since 1974 and exempts a percentage of real property tax. The program requires a forest management plan. The program encourages better quality timber and a forest economy. There are about 200+ landowners in Chenango County currently enrolled and more people entering. You must have 50+ contiguous forest acres owned. That acreage must

have the capability of being harvested within 30 years. There is no market currently for low grade pulp wood. Government entities may not apply. You must have a qualified forester, not NYSDEC, to do the management plan. The plan and map must be submitted to NYSDEC.

Chairman Ives asked how many consultants were in the area. Mr. Romanenko stated some consultants will travel about an hour. There are probably five to ten in our area. NYSDEC has a list on their website who have a four year degree and are certified. There is no licensing program in NYS.

Mr. Romanenko stated the property will have a lien for 10 years with up to an 80% reduction on taxes but this is up to the assessor. You must file the form every year and it is a 10 year rolling commitment. The plan must be updated every five years. Penalties are severe if done blatantly. Full revocation is the payback of the savings of back taxes, times 2.5, plus 12% interest. Partial revocation is five times the back taxes, plus 12% interest. There are two ways to exit the contract; don't sign the renewal and carry out the remainder of the 10 years, or pay a penalty.

Mr. DeClue asked if silvo-pasturing could be a permitted practice. Mr. Romanenko stated there is no grazing (domestic livestock) on 480A property or anything that could impact the understory. Compatible practices are only allowed.

ADC

Mr. Smith stated they have enlarged the microgrant allocation and ten have been awarded; two for mushrooms, two for maple, two for farm stands, one for farmers market and one other. Ms. Russell is in charge of the Farm to Fork event. The event will be two days this year plus one day of tabling/static display.

Ag Tour

Mr. Butler stated the Old Mill was no longer a possibility and has been talking to Judy's Corner Kitchen in Mount Upton. They would like to know what to offer for lunch. Lunch will be served at the park which has been reserved. Mr. Smith suggested wraps, chips, a cookie and maybe salad.

Mr. Butler is awaiting information from Hanehan's in order to finish the flier.

Alternative Agriculture

Mr. DeClue stated we had covered a lot of this already. Many are looking for possibilities to diversify their existing business. Sometimes this can take the focus off their core enterprise of dairy, require specialized skills & knowledge, and acquisition of significant capital to obtain unique equipment and/or develop new facilities.

Mr. Smith attended a meeting about hemp at Morrisville. People need to understand the crop is fussy and needs well-drained soil, high fertilizer and high nitrogen content. They are trying to find an all-purpose variety for grain and fiber. This would go in a rotation with corn, alfalfa and soybeans to break the cycle of weeds. It does have many of the same diseases as soybeans and may not be ready to help for five to ten years.

Chairman Ives asked about a market. Mr. Smith stated it is interesting as a grain because of the relatively complete protein content, however it doesn't do anything different than any other complete grain. Canada has been growing hemp for decades and still suffering to find a market.

Animal Welfare

Mr. DeClue stated there is an Animal Care Reference Manual of the Farm Assuring Responsible Management (F.A.R.M.) program for the dairy cattle industry, of which the entire document is 158 pages. There is another certification process which focuses on beef and other livestock, but requires the farmer to also ensure the slaughtering facility abides by the rules.

Mr. Smith stated we need to get something done before the end of the grazing season; probably August or September. It will be a cold, hard winter.

Land Use

Mr. Ryan was watching a television program on Ag Day from the American Farmland Trust. Over the last 20 years, we have lost as much farmland as the size of the state of Iowa with 70% due to urban sprawl.

Ms. Pierce stated there was a press release a month ago relating to added pieces to the Farmland Protection Implementation Grant (FPIG). The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) is another possibility. Some of these federal programs, money goes unused every year. Ms. Pierce is requesting a simple easement held by Chenango County and has submitted a proposal where the County would not have to administer the program. The power is in the hands of whoever holds the easement. She will submit another condensed version soon.

Mr. Smith has been looking into the historical agricultural data, curious about the changes in how the farmland is used. Upland farms have been abandoned and turned into forest.

Mr. Ryan stated someday this world will get hungry. What has the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board done? The cost to get a survey and the maintenance cost to put your property into an easement is very high. He would be spending over \$10,000 to lower the value of the property. People shouldn't be building on agricultural lands. Mr. Butler stated this is a local issue. Town Planning and Zoning Boards have to make that decision.

Open Discussion - Members

Mr. Smith talked to Senator Gillibrand's office about butterfat in milk. Studies are showing the milkfat helps brain development. Chairman Ives stated there is a representative from Pennsylvania who also signed on. There may be an easing of letting whole milk into schools. Sup. Lawrence stated butterfat isn't the problem.

Mr. DeClue stated the Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC) has been trying to conduct their annual interview of farmers on BMPs implemented in the last 12 months and report that good stewardship to update the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) model for the Chesapeake Bay plan. Soil and Water is frustrated with the constraints they are seeing in providing technical assistance on engineering type conservation practices (e.g., manure storage, barnyards, ponds) to help landowners. NRCS engineer used to issue job approval authority (JAA) to field staff but the new NRCS state engineer in NY will be pulling JAA from all NRCS field staff shortly, then slowly re-issuing. However, all SWCD technical staff in NY will no longer be able to obtain JAA through NRCS as they had for decades. Barnyards and manure storage projects, in particular, have been severely impacted.

Open Discussion – Public

None

With no further discussion, Mr. Smith motioned to adjourn, second by Sup. Lawrence at 12:01 AM.

The next meeting will be held on May 18, 2018 at 10:00 AM.

Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board

June 15, 2018-MEETING NOTES

**Member's Present: Terry Ives; Kenneth Ryan; Bradd Vickers; John Lawrence;
Shane Butler; Ken Smith; Corey Katusha.**

**Guests: Sandy Pierce; George Seneck; Lawrence Wilcox; Nicole Tommell;
Ashley Russell**

(Meeting could not be called to order due to lack of quorum)

Introduction:

Shane Butler introduced the new hire planner Corey Katusha to the board. Ken Smith introduced new Hire Nicole Tommell through Cornell Cooperative Extension. Nicole will be a resource for farmers looking to start and grow their business.

Terry Ives brought news of a bill in North Carolina that regulates what products can have the "milk" label attached to them. As part of the General Assembly's 2018 Farm Bill a ban would be placed on products labeled "milk" that does not come from animals. The bill cites federal regulations that date decades requiring the "milk" label to be associated with "coming from hooved animals". John Lawrence asked if the Board could be updated on the status of the bill.

Kenneth Ryan brings attention to a bill allowing 3.5% milk to be served in schools. Terry Ives responds that a bill has been introduced that would allow schools participating in the school lunch program to be allowed to serve whole milk. Ken Smith mentions that Claudia Tenney has shown support for such a bill.

Ag Development Council:

Ken Smith and Ashley Russell present two videos about maple syrup production. They are seeking response to the length, content and visual appeal of the videos. At the conclusion they open for comment on the videos. Guest Sandy Pierce suggested that slides with wording be left on for a longer duration so they can be read, other agree. John Lawrence asks if more can be mentioned of the process and equipment used in maple syrup production. Ashley responds that some information was cut for time but would look into adding more to the video.

Ken Smith mentions the new hire Nicole and how valuable of a resource she can be to new and existing farms. Ken also asks about the stipend that is offered for dairy farmers. Terry Ives responds that for most farmers finding the time to do the paperwork is difficult. Ken Smith agrees and feels it might be beneficial to farmers to allow Cornell to do the paperwork for the farmers.

Ag Tour:

Shane Butler brings attention to the upcoming AG tour and asks if a route could be agreed to for the trip. An informal agreement is made between members to visit the Wetland Trust, break for lunch, Hanahan Family farms and finish up at Quality Hardwoods. Shane reminds members that the tour takes place Friday, July 27th from 9:30am to 3 pm. Bradd Vickers asks if members of the government will be attending.

Shane responds that Governor Andrew Cuomo's office is sending two members and that other members of the government have been mailed invitations.

Review Goals:

Ken Smith asks if there is a legislative mandate for what the Board is required to do. Shane Butler responds that the Board's purpose is to oversee and review the agricultural districts in Chenango County. Ken Smith asks if there is a requirement to how many times the Board needs to meet? Shane Butler responds that there is not and that most counties meet every other month or quarterly. Shane also mentions that many counties ask how Chenango County implements its Ag and Farm Board.

Terry Ives questions whether it is the appropriate time to review the goals of the Ag and Farm Board. Shane Butler recommends waiting until after the Ag Census because the counties plan might have to be reviewed. It is agreed that goals should be saved to a more appropriate time. Kenneth Ryan mentions that a score sheet might be beneficial to rate how the board is doing with the goals.

Animal Welfare:

Bradd Vickers has planned an Animal Welfare conference on August 14th at the Silo restaurant in Greene from 11am to 3pm. The conference is to educate Chenango County Law Enforcement on appropriate actions when handling animal welfare complaints. Bradd says speakers will include members of Ag and Markets along with ASPCA and others to educate officers on animal welfare laws and how to handle a complaint. Terry Ives states that processors now are requiring animal welfare books to be filled out showing that farms are in compliance with animal welfare laws.

Alternative Agriculture:

Ken Smith mentions Nicole could be a valuable resource for alternative agriculture.

Floor (Members):

Bradd Vickers mentions a U.S. Senate bill that is up for vote on July 4th for Sustainability of Agriculture. The bill is sponsored by Mitch McConnell and would be awaiting house vote if passed. Bradd Vickers mentions that Saturday the 16th is Dairy day.

Ken Smith express concern with applicants of the revolving loan fund using Dean Foods as a cooperative. Ken Smith fears that Dean Foods is developing a monopoly in the milk sector. Terry Ives mentions new competition from a Walmart. A dairy plant planned for Indiana could be a driving force. Ken suggests the board draft a letter to the attorney general's office raising concerns the board has with a Dean Foods monopoly. All decide it would be better to wait for a quorum to discuss whether or not to draft a letter.

John Lawrence informs the board that the Soil and Water meeting is next week.

Floor (Guests)

Sandy Pierce asks three questions to the board. How long the Ag and Farm board been active, has Chenango County ever done a conservation easement, and has the Chenango County Attorney received her request for an easement? Shane Butler responds that he believes the Ag and Farm board was started in the early 90s but was unsure exactly when, the County has not participated in a conservation easement and that the County Attorney has received her request.

Sandy Pierce explains the need to protect farmland in Chenango County and the need to protect her farm. She feels her farm is a good candidate for a conservation easement due to its services such as education of farmers and its use of volunteer opportunities. Sandy expresses that in the application there is a site plan and restrictions to insure no environmental harm is done on the property. Sandy explains that Chenango County would have all the power to enforce and control the easement to benefit the county and farm land. Sandy is concerned with the ease that a deed covenant could be broken and that a conservation easement would be stronger. Sandy requests that the county consider the conservation easement for her property.

Ken Smith raises concern with the viability of such an easement and recommends Sandy reach out to the AFT or Dave Behm to look over the easement. Sandy agrees to have AFT and/or Dave Behm look over the easement and report back with needed changes.

Meeting ends at 11:30am

DRAFT

Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board

July 20th, 2018 Minutes

Member's Present: Terry Ives Chair; Kenneth Ryan; Stanley Davis; Bradd Vickers; Marge Davis; John Lawrence; Stephen Harris; Shane Butler; Ken Smith; Corey Katusha.

Guests: Chairman Wilcox

Meeting called to order at 10:10am.

Old Business:

Approve Minutes from June 15th, 2018 meeting.

Mr. Lawrence makes a motion to accept the minutes. Seconded by Mr. Vickers. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

New Business:

Mr. Smith asks if a new member should be added to the board due to Ken Dibbell's health issues that are preventing him from attending. Last meeting a quorum wasn't present and Mr. Smith was unsure if that would happen more often in the future. Mr. Butler states that meetings where there is a lack of quorum is rare for the meeting. Mr. Vickers advises that it is something the board would have to keep in mind for the future if not having a quorum becomes a problem.

Ag Development:

Mr. Smith states that there have not been any meetings during July and won't be any in August. This is due to vacations and other summer events making it difficult to schedule meetings during these months. Mr. Vickers mentions that he has seen billboards promoting the farm to fork program that the Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) has been working on. Mr. Smith states that they have had more billboards than originally planned due to twice as many sponsors this year.

Ag Tour:

Mr. Butler passes out a list of names for people who have signed up to attend the Ag tour. Mr. Butler asks if anyone who is not on the list who would like to come to let him know today so he can place them on the list. Mr. Ives asks where we will be meeting to take the bus in the tour. Mr. Butler states the bus will meet at the CCE at 9:15am. The tour will go to The Wetland Trust, break for lunch at Mount Upton Park, Hanahan Family Farm, and end at Quality hardwoods. The tour will then be back at the CCE at around 3pm. Mr. Ives asks if a tour will be given of the CCE to show the new improvements to the building. Mr. Smith responds that they are hoping to show people the building before they board the bus. Mr. Ives states that we are lucky to have the CCE so close, many other counties have theirs far away making it difficult for farmers and others to use as a resource. Mr. Smith acknowledges Mr. Ives and others making it possible for

the CCE to be located in the area. Mr. Lawrence asks what the government officials attending feelings are related to agriculture. Mr. Butler responds that many of the government officials are on various boards or committees related to agriculture.

Goals:

The goals are going to be reviewed after the Ag Census comes out. Mr. Ives asks that members review the goals on their own time.

Animal Welfare:

Mr. Vickers is planning an animal welfare training for August 14th at the Silo restaurant in Greene. Mr. Vickers states that the date planned might have to be moved. Mr. Smith expresses concern that the State Fair is close to that time and hopes that the new date could avoid coinciding with it. Mr. Vickers plans on having speakers from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), the New York State Veterinary Medical Society, and others. Mr. Vickers is hoping to have it recorded so that those who can't attend are able to view the information.

Mr. Lawrence brings attention to a Town of Afton resident's Facebook page complaining about the Town of Afton's dog control officer. The complaint began when the resident's pit bulls got loose and surrounded an elderly lady walking her dog close by. The dog control officer has issued several tickets for the loose animals as well as the dogs not being licensed. Mr. Vickers states that the licensing is a New York State requirement that the control officer has no control over. Mr. Lawrence states that the residents Facebook page accusing the control officer of being biased against pit bulls is untrue, the officer is simply doing her job.

Alternative Agriculture:

Mr. Smith brings attention to a new blueberry farm located in the Town of Columbus. The owners have made a substantial investment into getting the farm up and running. Mr. Smith suggest that maybe this could help differentiate Chenango Counties farming crops. Mr. Vickers asks if at one time there was a fleece and fiber directory available through the CCE. Mr. Smith responded that there was once such a directory and he would forward the information along to Mr. Vickers.

Privilege of the floor (Members):

Mr. Vickers addressed the board with the recent news regarding agriculture. Mr. Vickers mentioned the newly passed New York State bill allowing for ice cream containing beer or cider to be sold. Mr. Vickers attended an event at Gilligan's in Sherburne which sells the items. Mr. Vickers stated the event went very well and that Senator Seward and Assemblyman Magee attended the event.

Mr. Vickers shares that the Endangered Species Act is being reworked to make it more farmer friendly. Mr. Ives shares that he has seen a video that talks about the return of wolves to Yellowstone National Park and how the return of the wolves helped the ecosystem of the park.

Mr. Vickers says the SNAP program is going through electronic issues regarding the use of the program at farmers markets and such. Mr. Vickers mentions the H2C program which would allow seasonal employees to work both part time and full time. Mr. Vickers states that on August 13th there will be a Market Management meeting in Albany. Mr. Ives states the meeting is open to people involved in the dairy industry.

Mr. Lawrence asks if there is an answer to the SNAP issue. Mr. Vickers states he has not heard of a solution yet from anyone including Commerce Chenango.

Mr. Lawrence asks if the group would like to draft a letter regarding Dean Foods. Mr. Smith states that Dean Foods controls products ranging from milk, organic milk, soy and almond milk. Mr. Smith feels it would be beneficial to express the concern to the new attorney general. Mr. Ives states he heard of a shortage of liquid milk available in stores and a recent push for whole milk. Mr. Vickers asks if a letter could be drafted by Mr. Smith and the CCE and be sent to the new attorney general. Mr. Smith agrees that he could draft a letter and include statistical figures to show how much of the market Dean Foods controls. Mr. Lawrence asks if the letter could be given to the members of the government who will be attending the Ag Tour. Mr. Smith states he would draft a letter of interest to be handed out at that event.

Mr. Vickers makes a motion to draft a letter to NYS Attorney General examining Dean Foods to see if it should be considered a monopoly, seconded by Mr. Lawrence. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Vickers asks Mr. Lawrence about the recent increase in broadband services. Mr. Lawrence states that contactors from Frontier and Spectrum have been actively installing new lines. Mr. Ives asks Mr. Butler if there was a map available to show the areas the service is being installed. Mr. Butler responds that there is no map available. It is considered proprietary information and could be used to show competitors where future customers will be located. Mr. Ives asks what type of cost is associated with the installation. Mr. Butler states that it depends on the company and the type of service chosen.

Mr. Davis raises concerns regarding the FDA cracking down what products can be called milk. Precedent could be placed on items that have always been called milk.

Mr. Harris states that the Town of Deruyter is losing their FFA teacher. Mrs. Davis asks if there is a search for a replacement. Mr. Harris is not sure at this time if they are looking for a replacement for the position.

Mr. Ryan mentions the progress of the ongoing Amish dairy facility being built close by to his home. Mr. Vickers asks if it will be marketed. Mr. Ryan states that they plan to sell the milk at that facility. Mr. Lawrence asks if the milk will be pasteurized. Mr. Ryan states that the milk will be unpasteurized. Mr. Smith states that a certain amount of milk can be sold as unpasteurized because there are health risks associated.

Mr. Ives brings attention to a bridge he uses to cross the river to get to his farmland has recently been rated to five tons. The weight rating is much too low for Mr. Ives to transport equipment across. Mr. Ives has used the bridge in past years and is unsure where the rating came from and if it is true. Mr. Ives has sent the specifications to Mr. Ryan to look over and determine otherwise. Mr. Ives states that in his deed the Village of Unadilla is responsible for the bridge in its perpetuity. Mr. Smith suggests Mr. Ives seek the input of a lawyer regarding the Village of Unadilla's maintenance of the bridge. Chairman Wilcox mentions that a culvert would restrict the flow of water and could cause flooding issues. Mr. Ives states that maintenance of roads and bridges for farmers is difficult.

Meeting ends 11:10am

Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board

August 17th, 2018 Minutes

Member's Present: Terry Ives Chair; Kenneth Ryan; Stanley Davis; Bradd Vickers; Marge Davis; Sup. John Lawrence; Stephen Harris; Shane Butler; Ken Smith; Corey Katusha.

Guests: Chairman Lawrence Wilcox, Sup. George Seneck,

Rainy Collins-Vickers

Meeting called to order at 10:10am.

Old Business:

Approve Minutes from August 17th, 2018 meeting.

Mr. Ryan makes a motion to accept the minutes. Seconded by Sup. Lawrence. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Ag Development:

Mr. Smith discusses the successful Farm to Fork display at the Chenango County Fair. Some thought is being made to make it a weeklong event at the fair. Hopefully by including other aspects such as hunting would help make it a weeklong event. The display featured the 4-H students for the first time and they were able to cook food and sell fruits and vegetables at the display. Mr. Smith brings attention to the condition of exhibition hall preventing its use for the event. Mr. Smith hopes that the hall can be updated and improved for next year's event.

Ag Tour:

Mr. Butler tells the group that this year's Ag tour went well and he has heard good reviews. Mr. Butler mentioned The Evening Sun did a press release on the tour and featured comments from Assemblyman Cliff Crouch. Mr. Ives spoke with Mr. Crouch shortly after and thought Mr. Crouch enjoyed the event and was going to share his experience with other members of the New York State Assembly. Mr. Butler mentioned that Jaclyn Courter of Southern Tier 8 has been working with the Wetland trust on a grant application for funding. Mr. Smith spoke about Quality Hardwoods and their difficulty with marketing the finished wood products. Mr. Smith thinks that the Cornell Cooperative Extension or Development Chenango might be able to help.

Mr. Butler handed members a map of all past tour areas. The group is looking into areas of Pitcher, Pharsalia, Plymouth, German, McDonough, Preston, and Smithville. These areas have not been visited on past tours. Mr. Smith stated that visiting State land and having a forester speak about the aging spruce trees. Other options could be Newton's, Lily Farms and Hidden Pond Stables. Sup. Lawrence advises that reaching out to Town Supervisors might be beneficial.

Animal Welfare:

Mr. Vickers is planning an animal welfare training for law enforcement officers on August 24th from 10am to 3pm. The event is taking place at the Silo restaurant in Greene with lunch provided. Right now there is a lack of attendance for the meeting. Mr. Vickers asked if Chairman Wilcox could reach out to law enforcement officials to make them aware of the

meeting. Chairman Wilcox stated that he would bring the meeting to their attention at the next safety and rules meeting. Mr. Smith stated that he would also help by calling officials and sending letters. Mr. Vickers is hoping that the speakers and the explanation of the actual law will benefit the officers.

Mr. Ives brought attention to the difficulties of disposing livestock, the New York State vet just issued new regulations. Mr. Vickers stated that the new regulations are hard to implement. Mr. Vickers felt it would be easier to identify the livestock that are the problem. Mr. Smith mentioned that the CCE has resources available for livestock disposal. Mr. Ives says the issue is not just with cows but with all forms of livestock. Mr. Vickers stated that he is working with Ag and Markets to try and resolve the issue.

Alternative Agriculture:

Mr. Smith stated that Norwich Meadows is expanding their farming operation to grow new varieties of corn and other produce. Mr. Smith says that the CCE has seen an increase in maple syrup farming and production. Sup. Lawrence asked if the maple syrup is an alternative source of income or a main source of income. Mr. Vickers responded that it can be both depending on the size of the operation. Mr. Smith stated that some farms are using it as a way to get young farmers involved in family farms.

Privilege of the floor (Members):

Mr. Smith stated that due to the Chenango County Fair he was unable to draft a letter about Dean Foods. Mr. Smith stated that he would work on drafting a letter now that the fair has ended. Mr. Vickers asked if there have been any gains in the schools regarding milk. Mr. Ives stated that he has seen a push for whole milk in schools. Mr. Vickers asked if schools have a problem keeping the milk cold before consumption. Mr. Ives stated that most schools now have coolers or fridges to keep the milk cool and don't set it out on counter tops. Mr. Vickers stated that when the milk is warm and not cool it affects how popular of a choice it is for kids.

Mr. Vickers brought attention to the upcoming elections and for members to familiarize themselves with their representatives and vote. Mr. Vickers will be going to Washington D.C. in a few months to work with agricultural groups on policy changes.

Sup. Lawrence mentioned that the farm bill has not yet passed. Mr. Vickers stated that one of the reasons he is going to Washington D.C. is to help with that issue. Sup. Lawrence stated that the NRCS has many positions open and they are looking to fill them. The NRCS still wants those interested in BMPs to apply and they will figure out the site visits at a later time.

Sup. Lawrence stated a concern during the Chenango County Planning Committee meeting from Steve Craig of Commerce Chenango regarding a softwood processing mill. Mr. Butler responded that the planning department along with Steve Palmatier are looking at sites for a mill. Mr. Butler stated that the possible investors are looking for three phase power, railroad access, and being out of a flood zone.

Mr. Harris stated his concerns with the new 480b forestry management program through New York State. The concern is that the standards to qualify for 480b are lower than the previous program making more properties acceptable. Mr. Harris stated that in Chenango County 6,000 parcels meet the 25 acre requirement for the program. Mr. Harris feels the tax loss from the program could hurt Chenango County. Sup. Lawrence asked what the driving factor behind the new program is. Mr. Harris responded that the Hudson Valley and Adirondack areas are using the program to protect forests from development. Mr. Vickers stated that the program is moving the tax burden.

Mr. Ryan brought attention to the Spotted Lantern Fly, an invasive pest from Asia that was recently found in Pennsylvania and is spreading. The fly feeds on grapevine, hops, maple, walnut, fruit trees and others and could have a serious negative impact on New York State.

Mr. Ryan asked Supervisor George Seneck about the current wind turbine project in Guilford. Sup. Seneck responds that there is an open house with the wind project development company Calpine on August 26th from 4pm till 6pm. Sup. Seneck stated that a second test site will be placed on Mulhair's farm and the company is doing the bird survey. Mr. Smith asked what the communities feeling is regarding the wind turbines. Sup. Seneck responded that the town residents have feelings for and against the project. Sup. Seneck stated that his concerns are with the fast pace the project is moving and with letters and other documents he never received but should have. Sup. Seneck feels the Town of Guilford hasn't had enough time to familiarize itself with the project and the procedures of implementing it. Sup. Seneck explained that there will be 20 to 24 turbines at the site. Mr. Smith asked if the leases and tax credits are more or less lucrative now. Mr. Harris and Sup. Seneck responded that the industry has become more lucrative. Mr. Harris and Sup. Seneck both expect the project to apply for an IDA tax credit.

Mr. Smith stated that the CCE and Farm Net are helping farmers through tough financial times and with possible mental health issues. Mr. Smith stated that many dairy farms have been negatively impacted by the low milk prices and caused some of them to harm themselves. Mr. Ives responded that many farmers feel there is no hope on the horizon.

Mr. Ives brought attention to a recent article stating that the USDA is announcing a milk purchase program of \$50 million. The program will distribute the milk as part of The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP). Mr. Ives felt that this program might offer some relief to struggling farmers. Mr. Ives mentioned that the current trade tariffs that have been hurting farmers might welcome better changes for farmers. Mr. Ives stated a recent news article stated that representatives from China would like to meet with the United States to discuss trade practices. Mr. Ives felt that this might offer some hope that things will change for the better.

Mr. Ives stated the difficulty it is to find a slaughter house for farm animals. Mr. Ives felt that farmers have a difficult time accessing butchers on short notice and could cost the farmer the meat from the animal. Mr. Vickers agreed with the difficulty and stated that a loophole in the system allows for mislabeling. Mr. Vickers stated that a cow that was raised and killed in another country can be butchered in America and sold as American beef.

Sup. Lawrence asked if there has been any fluid milk that has been sent to Africa. Sup. Lawrence meets many priests from Kenya through church and most of them only have powdered milk. Mr. Smith responds that many countries in Africa are poor and don't have the means to buy the milk. Mr. Smith also stated that most of the population is lactose intolerant causing the milk to be undesirable. Mr. Ives stated that the market is flooded with powdered milk which affects milk prices. Mr. Ives stated that the powdered milk is a cheaper product compared to fluid milk. Sup. Lawrence asked if there was a way to market the fluid milk over the powdered milk. Mr. Vickers stated that perhaps reaching out to Representative Tenney could be beneficial.

Meeting ends 11:22am

Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board

September 21st, 2018 Minutes

Member's Present: Terry Ives Chair; Kenneth Ryan; Stanley Davis; Bradd Vickers; Sup. Marge Davis; Sup. John Lawrence; Stephen Harris; Shane Butler; Ken Smith; Corey Katusha.

Guests: Sup. George Seneck

Meeting called to order at 10:00am.

Old Business:

Approve Minutes from August 17th, 2018 meeting.

Mr. Vickers makes a motion to accept the minutes. Seconded by Mr. Ryan. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Ag Development:

Mr. Smith updated the group on the current projects Ag Development Council has been involved in. The council helped coordinate the animal cruelty training session along with Mr. Vickers. The turnout at the County fair wasn't what the Council was expecting and some factors contributed to the numbers. One factor is that many vendors were selling undesirable products that blocked the view and access to the agricultural stands. The Council is hoping that at the next County fair they can have six (6) days of events and their own area. Ideas for such events include farm to fork day, forestry, maple products and outdoor recreation.

Mr. Ives asked Mr. Smith to speak about a meeting regarding the County fair and the Cornell Cooperative Extensions (CCE) view of Confederate Flags. Those in attendance of the meeting questioned the CCE views on the Confederate Flags and those like it being in close proximity to the CCE area. Attendees were looking for the CCE to make a statement regarding the CCE view on the situation. Mr. Smith reminded the attendees that the CCE has a non-political affiliation. Mr. Smith suggested that other counties like Madison, Saratoga and others have asked vendors remove the flags. Mr. Smith stated that New York State has not made any laws regarding the Confederate Flags are leaving it to local governments to decide.

Animal Welfare:

Mr. Vickers informed the group that the Animal Welfare training was well received. The attendees included local town supervisors, police officers from Norwich and Oxford, and the State Sheriff's office. The presenter's informed attendees on laws and how to properly identify animal neglect. The New York State Ag and Markets Vet is interested in doing more presentations for law enforcement throughout the State. Mr. Ryan asked what the next steps would be and stated that he saw nothing in the paper or local news about the training. Mr. Smith responded that there is no obvious next step at this time. Mr. Smith stated he would write an article in a local newspaper regarding the training. Mr. Vickers stated that video and PowerPoints of the training will become available soon. Mr. Ives asked if the local SPCA had been consulted at all. Mr. Vickers stated that he extended an invitation to the SPCA for the training but they were unable to attend. Mr. Vickers stated that there is no humane officer in Chenango County leaving animal neglect matters to be investigated by local police

departments. Sup. Lawrence stated that many local judges don't know the law regarding animal neglect.

Alternative Agriculture:

Sup. Lawrence stated interest in the growing market for Cannabidiol (CBD oil) a derivative of the cannabis plant. The CBD oil is used to treat multiple symptoms including pain relief. Sup. Lawrence asked what equipment is needed for harvesting and what farmers could do to support it. Mr. Ives explained that there is most likely certain land requirements such as available space and Ph levels in the soil. Mr. Smith stated the best places to grow hemp which the CBD oil is made from is in fields that are currently being used for corn. Corn and hemp require roughly the soil same conditions for a successful crop yield. Many farmers would rather grow corn at this time, which could change depending on market conditions. Sup. Lawrence suggested having a speaker with more knowledge on hemp growing to present to the group. Mr. Butler responded that the Planning Department has been in contact with a hemp farmer in Oxford, but they have been reluctant to share knowledge. Mr. Butler stated that local colleges such as Cornell University, SUNY Morrisville, and SUNY Broome are researching hemp farming. Mr. Smith stated that he would update the group next meeting on CBD oil and the process of manufacturing it.

Mr. Vickers stated that farms with lots of forested land could find benefit in leasing for hunting. Mr. Vickers stated that as long as the leases are fair for both parties it could bring a profitable income for struggling farmers. Mr. Ryan asked if someone involved in leasing could present to the group about the process. Mr. Vickers stated he would try and contact some of the companies and request a presenter.

Mr. Ryan asked if a struggling dairy farm can survive by having a hunting lease, selling maple products and growing hemp. Mr. Ryan suggested that by using one or all of these options a struggling farmer could make ends meet. Mr. Smith stated that depending on the type of operation it is possible as long as no extra works comes to the farmer. Many farms, including Mr. Vickers lease their maple production so that Mr. Vickers and other farmers don't have to devote more labor and materials to the operation. This makes it profitable for farmers do use this type of method. Mr. Smith stated that maple is a controlled market and it can be stored for a period of time unlike milk. These features make maple a good option for farmers who are looking for extra income to make up for poor milk prices.

Dean Foods Letter:

Sup. Lawrence asked if Mr. Smith had the opportunity to work on the Dean Foods Letter. Mr. Smith stated that with the County fair and his budget deadline approaching he hasn't had a chance to draft a letter yet. Mr. Smith will work on drafting a letter to the New York State Attorney General regarding Dean Food's possible monopoly on the milk market.

Privilege of the floor (Members):

Sup. Davis informed the group on a few news articles regarding dairy farming.

- New York being the third (3rd) leading dairy producer in the U.S.
- The restriction of milk in the school systems.

Sup. Davis felt that many generations of milk drinkers have been lost due to misinformation in medical science. Another loss is from the popularity of soda, Kool-Aid and other drinks that don't have an expiration date and are more popular with kids due to the sugar content. Sup.

Lawrence asked if there was a legal policy prohibiting milk in schools. Mr. Ives and Mr. Smith responded that schools have to follow government policies in order to receive funding despite recent research that whole milk is a healthy alternative. Mr. Ryan referenced a recent New York Times article stating research findings of whole milk benefit as part of a daily diet. Mr. Ives stated that the U.S Government is working on the 2020-2025 dietary guidelines, Mr. Ives is hoping the ADA can push for the correct changes in dairy intake.

Mr. Smith asked Mr. Ives if a managed milk market in New York State would be beneficial to farmers. Mr. Ives agreed that a managed market would be beneficial to farmers. Mr. Ives felt that a base program, where a farmers get a set pay for a certain number of gallons produced would be beneficial. After the set number of gallons is produced the farmer can sell the excess on the market at the market rate. Mr. Ives felt that this would offer financial certainty in a constant unpredictable market. Mr. Ives stated that this type of program has been unpopular in the past due to farmers thinking they could do better on the open market. However given the current circumstances this option could be more popular.

Mr. Vickers stated that the annual policy meeting for the Chenango County Farm Bureau will take place on October 23rd at the Silo restaurant starting at 6:30pm. Mr. Vickers encouraged members to get out and vote in the upcoming election and to get to know the candidates running.

Mr. Ryan praised Chenango County for being the least fiscally constrained county in New York State.

Sup. Lawrence stated that district training for the Soil and Water Conservation District would be coming soon.

Mr. Harris stated that school, town, and county tax bills have gone out. Mr. Harris expressed his concern with the newly proposed 480 B bill. The bill would significantly impact Chenango County's tax base if passed.

Sup. Seneck stated that the proposed Wind Development Workshop has been moved to November 7th. The workshop will focus on the Article 10 process which New York State uses to regulate project development. An attorney for the Town of Guilford has not been secured yet, but one will be soon.

Mr. Ives recalled a recent experience trying to get a cow butchered. Rendering companies have not been taking in any cows due to a drug used in aiding the death of the animal that harms pets who eat the food. Mr. Ives took the cow to a local butcher but wasn't sure it could be slaughtered because the current weight requested is 700lbs. Mr. Ives stated that it is becoming difficult to properly dispose of an animal. ADA district meeting will take place on November 3rd.

With no other business, meeting ends at 11:25am

Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board October 19, 2018 - MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Terry Ives; Ken Smith; Ken Ryan; Bradd Vickers;
Sup. Marge Davis; Steve Harris; Stan Davis; and Shane Butler.
Guests Present: Sup. George Seneck;

Minutes

Chairman Ives called the meeting to order at 10:01 and asked for any additions or corrections on the September 21, 2018 meeting minutes. Mr. Smith stated he was going to put the article in the Country Folk's Magazine. Mr. Davis made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Mr. Harris. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Ag Development Council

Mr. Smith stated they will be working with the Chenango County Fair Board to have a week worth of Chenango County agriculture programming at the next Fair. They will have Farm to Fork, fishing, forestry, winter sports, etc., each on a given day(s). They will also work to be closer to the entrance so farming is the first thing people see. Mr. Vickers stated this would provide a stationary section.

Animal Welfare

Mr. Vickers will be asking other Farm Bureaus to do a similar program to what they had done. There was a lot of appreciation from law enforcement on the event. CCE is working on a video which can be displayed.

Sup. Seneck suggested adding a training for County Magistrates (judges) next year. Mr. Vickers stated there are a few things they want to change for next year. Hopefully next year additional Town Supervisors and other local officials will attend next year.

Right to Farm Law

Mr. Smith asked for this to be on the agenda due to some recent complaints about farmers. It would be helpful to have signs or something on town lines showing this is in effect. Chairman Ives stated the Town of Guilford had tried to adopt a Right to Farm Law but the Town attorney was not in favor and argued against it. It was never passed. The towns of Columbus, Coventry, McDonough, New Berlin, North Norwich, Plymouth, Preston, Sherburne, and Smyrna all have laws in place. Ms. Doing provided the County Right to Farm Law and a Sample Town law.

Mr. Ryan asked why it was needed since we have the Ag District Law. Mr. Smith stated it would be another layer of support to the farmer. Mr. Butler stated there is a mediator who can come out as part of the Ag District Law. There was a case in Smithville where this was needed.

Mr. Vickers stated realtors are supposed to disclose and make buyers sign a form showing they are aware they are in a farming community. Junk storage laws were an issue previously and Ag and Markets had to get involved. He suggested putting a letter together, as drafted by the Planning Department, to send to Town Supervisors. He asked if sample laws and the adopted County law could be sent to AFPB members first. Sup. Seneck stated he would suggest referring information to Ag, Buildings & Grounds.

Alternative Agriculture

Mr. Smith stated there are a number of successful mushroom growers in the County now. At least three grow commercially. A farmer who had recently sold his property in Pennsylvania came to Chenango County because land was cheaper. He intends to grow vegetables and had asked about growing peaches. In McDonough, another farmer is installing cabins on the farm as a form of income.

Mr. Vickers has someone willing to speak about hunting leases and asked if the November meeting would work. Mr. Butler stated they would be added to the agenda.

Mr. Butler stated Ms. Pierce had mentioned potentially wanting to present at the November meeting as well. Mr. Ryan asked why the AFPB doesn't seem interested in providing an easement. Mr. Smith stated New York Agricultural Land Trust (NYALT) exists for this reason. Mr. Butler stated the AFPB provided a support letter previously but did not want the responsibility nor the liability of holding the easement.

Mr. Harris stated that sometimes subdividing a farm is the retirement plan of farmers when they don't have anyone else to pass the farm to and selling it as a whole isn't an option or isn't economical. Mr. Butler referenced a current subdivision application in the Town of Columbus where 13 parcels would be created.

Mr. Ryan suggested adding time limits on the agenda for future meetings.

Open Discussion - Members

Sup. Seneck stated there was a date change regarding the meeting for windmills in Guilford. It will now be on Thursday, November 8th from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. There is limited seating and people will be asked to RSVP.

Mr. Vickers stated their annual meeting is at The Silo on October 23rd. They are also doing a chainsaw fundraiser for anyone interested. Now, prior to the election, is a good time to talk with legislators about where they stand on certain issues. It is better to know before rather than after. We also need to create awareness regarding people shooting/wounding/killing people's animals. There have been cases popping up a lot lately in NY where livestock has been found injured or dead by the farmers.

Mr. Smith spoke about the state of the dairy industry. About 5% of dairy farmers in Chenango County are making money, and those are the grass fed dairies. The industry may be out of the county if the price remains like this for a period of three more years. There are currently 155 dairy farms in the County with an economic impact of about \$50 million per year. Mr. Ives heard from a cooperative that the milk supply is tightening up and dumping isn't happening as often, if at all.

Mr. Smith wrote a resolution regarding the milk industry. He asked members to read it and send him any comments. He also wrote a draft letter to the Attorney General regarding Dean Foods. He asked members to read and comment on that as well. Dean Foods owns Organic Valley, Garelick, Friendly's, plant-based milk companies and more. They are all owned by the same company and are making our farmers compete against each other and reaping the benefits.

Mr. Ryan asked if milk production has remained the same. Mr. Smith stated it peaked around 1985. It is beginning to fall. The margin protection program was supposed to help but did not. Chairman Ives stated he would support a base-price system but not quotas.

Sup. Davis stated there is a mushroom grower in Greene who could be a stop on the Ag Tour next year. Ag and Markets Commissioner Ball is looking for input through a survey relating to farming and dairy. You can find the survey on the Dairy of Distinction Facebook page. There are 11 or 12 questions and people should provide input.

Mr. Harris stated the Ag Building Exemption is sunsetting this year. There is a bill which passed the Senate and Assembly and is waiting for a signature. There are some other ag-related bills which have passed as well and are awaiting signatures.

Mr. Butler provided a report from Sup. Lawrence. Anyone with storm damage to their fields and crops should contact Brian Sheridan at FSA. They will provide 75% of funds up to \$1000 for damage. The work cannot have already been done on the property. Also, Lance at Soil and Water is helping with permits for anyone looking to do work in their streams.

Chairman Ives stated there is a lot of plastic near the river and streams where bales floated down the river. Prices of land in the West are remaining steady despite the drop in commodity prices, which is a surprise. The ADA District Meeting will be held on November 3rd in Oxford.

Open Discussion – Public

With no further discussion, Mr. Vickers motioned to adjourn, second by Mr. Harris at 11:15 AM.

The next meeting will be held on November 16, 2018 at 10:00 AM.

Minutes prepared by Shane H. Butler, Planning Director

Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board December 21, 2018 - MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Terry Ives; Ken Smith; Ken Ryan; Bradd Vickers; Sup. John Lawrence
Sup. Marge Davis; Stan Davis; and Shane Butler.

Guests Present: Sup. George Seneck; Chairman Wilcox; Sandy Pierce;
Tom Dzeikan; Canice Paliotta; Rainy Collins-Vickers

Minutes

Chairman Ives called the meeting to order at 10:03 and asked for any additions or corrections on the October 19, 2018 meeting minutes. Sup. Lawrence made a motion to approve the minute, seconded by Mr. Ryan. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Presentations

Presenter Tom Dzeikan of the Hunting Lease Network presented to the group about benefits of hunting leases for farmers. Main highlights included:

- There are roughly ten (10) leases in Chenango County at this time
- A property can be leased between \$15-\$22 an acre after the 25% commission
- Mr. Dzeikan's company provides property management, lease fee negotiations, marketing of the property for potential leases, and liability coverage.
- Benefits to the farmer can include complete or partial payment of taxes through the lease payments, and bringing money to the local economy from hunters

Presenter Sandy Pierce of Lamb Quarters Inc. presented on the Food Safety Modernization act (FSMA) of 2011, update on Ms. Pierce's agricultural protection easement, and request of support for the Norwich Farmers Market. Main highlights included:

- Request to speak with County Attorney Mr. Alan Gordon about the status of Ms. Pierce's FPIG property easement
- The FSMA and the difficulty on local farmers and farmers markets to comply
- Current regulation by the City of Norwich and its negative impact on the Norwich Farmers Market
- The City of Norwich is looking into revising current regulation to be more farmers market friendly. Ms. Pierce requested a letter of support from the board for her proposed changes of the use of parking spaces along the north, east and west side of east park, waiver of two (2) hour parking, yearly use of electricity for \$150 or less, year round use of East Park from 6am-9pm, provided NYS ag and markets farmers market manager, no licensing fee, and market provided liability coverage.
- The Chenango County Ag Development Council has already provided a letter of support for Ms. Pierce
- Ms. Pierce would like for people with a farming background be more involved in the decision of the farmers market

Mr. Butler stated that in order for the County Attorney to become involved Ms. Pierce would have to request a motion through Ag Buildings and Grounds committee for Mr. Gordon to review the easement on behalf of the County.

Sup. Lawrence motioned to draft a letter of support for Ms. Pierce based off the support letter from Ag Development Council with the addition the Norwich Farmers market providing the City of Norwich with liability coverage, seconded by Sup. Davis. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Ag Development Council

Mr. Smith stated that the Ag Development Council doesn't hold meetings in December, therefore there were no updates.

Animal Welfare

Mr. Vickers stated that New York Farm Bureau won a national award on the animal welfare presentation. Mr. Vickers will be going to New Orleans to give a presentation on animal welfare. The Farm Bureau is looking for the animal welfare training to be available nationwide. Mr. Smith added that he is working on a video for animal welfare taken from the training in Oxford this year for public use. Mr. Smith hopes to have the video completed soon.

Mr. Ives asked if there have been changes or improvements to the fencing law. Mr. Vickers stated that fencing laws have not been updated in some time and are inadequate for today's needs. Mr. Smith stated that in Guilford a farmer's horses are breaking through the fence and going onto the neighbor's property or standing in the roadway.

Right to Farm Law

Mr. Vickers stated that many town and county right to farm laws lack enough “teeth” or substance to protect farmers. Mr. Smith stated that some towns have farm laws that require the two sides meet with a mediator to resolve the issues. Mr. Butler stated that this was tried in the Town of Smithville but one of the parties never came to the meetings. Mr. Ives would like to review the County’s right to farm law and suggest updates to it. Next meeting the group will review the law and suggest necessary changes.

Alternative Agriculture

Mr. Smith stated that the newly signed farm bill gives funding to start growing hemp and marijuana. This year it is likely that Governor Cuomo will legalize marijuana use in New York State. The demand for marijuana will have to be met by growing some locally. Although Mr. Smith doesn’t agree with the legalization of marijuana, the legalization could give farmers an alternative crop to grow and sell.

Open Discussion - Members

Mr. Vickers stated that at the annual New York Farm Bill State meeting the support for a change in the dairy market wasn’t strong enough for any real change. A base production or production limit has been suggested to help struggling dairy farmers receive a more stable price on the milk sales. Governor Cuomo extended the tax exemption for structures and buildings essential to agricultural use. The exemption provides a tax exemption grant as a one-time, 10-year property tax exemption for any increase in property value from the construction of improvements for structures that are essential to the operation of the farm. Senator Schumer visited Chobani recently and is working on changing part of the school food program to allow Greek yogurt in schools for consumption. Current regulation doesn’t allow the product to be sold in schools, the change would benefit child nutrition and give dairy farmers more consumers for their product.

Mr. Ives went over his recent milk check and all the deductions from it. The deduction from Mr. Ives’ share are starting to drastically reduce the amount of money Mr. Ives and other dairy farmers are able to take home. Mr. Vickers felt that without a change in the current milk market the trend of lower milk prices are likely to continue. Mr. Vickers stated that with a growing population farmers will have to grow and produce more to feed the population. Currently when farms are no longer in use the land is developed for housing and lost from production.

Mr. Butler stated that Assemblywomen Donna Lupardo has taken over for Assemblyman Bill Magee as the Chair of the New York State Assembly Agriculture Committee. Ms. Lupardo has been on many of the Chenango County Agricultural Tours and her appointment as Chair could be beneficial to the County.

Sup. Lawrence stated that the past market facilitation payment insurance had failed and the State has acknowledged that. Farmers can now expect a refund from the payments they made for the program.

Sup. Seneck stated that the wind energy training in Guilford has been postponed again and he is unsure when it will be rescheduled. Mr. Ryan asked if the training was open to anyone. Sup. Seneck responded that currently the training is by invitation only and is for members of the County Planning, codes, and school systems among others. Sup. Seneck will update the group on the rescheduled date when it becomes available.

Open Discussion – Public

With no further discussion, Mr. Vickers motioned to adjourn, second by Mr. Ryan at 11:30 AM.

The next meeting will be held on January 18, 2018 at 10:00 AM.

Minutes prepared by Corey Katusha, Planner