

Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board January 18, 2019 - MEETING MINUTES

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

Guests Present: Canice Paliotta

Reorganization

Mr. Butler stated that a new chair, vice chair, and secretary of the need to be appointed.

- Mr. Ryan made a motion to appoint Mr. Terry Ives as Chair, seconded by Sup. Lawrence. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.
- Sup. Lawrence made a motion to appoint Mr. Stan Davis as Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Ryan. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.
- Mr. Davis made a motion to appoint Mr. Ryan as Secretary, seconded by Mr. Smith. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

With all appointments made the Chenango County Ag and Protection Board had been reorganized to include Mr. Ives as Chair, Mr. Davis as Vice Chair, and Mr. Ryan as Secretary for the 2019 year.

Minutes

Chairman Ives called the meeting to order at 10:03am and asked for any additions or corrections on the December 18, 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 (ADC)

Mr. Smith reported that the ADC is planning to provide a week worth of program events for the Chenango County Fair in 2019. The events will be split by day and will include agriculture, maple and honey, forestry field days, hunting and fishing, and outdoor recreation days. Many attendees of the Fair feel that there is not enough Chenango County displays or events that aren't unique to Chenango County. Mr. Smith and the ADC are looking for a visually exciting display to draw people into their display area. Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) has a maple evaporator that they could set up to attract attendees. Mr. Harris asked if Mr. Smith and the CCE have reached out to the local FFA's to bring displays. Mr. Smith stated that they reached out to BOCES and will reach out to the FFA. Mr. Ives stated that New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH) might do a tractor safety display if contacted. Mr. Smith stated he would report back to the group with more updates.

Animal Welfare

Mr. Smith stated that he worked on a PowerPoint® presentation for Bradd Vickers to take to the National Farm Bureau conference in New Orleans. The presentation is a condensed version of the animal welfare training that took place in Coventry last year. The Farm Bureau is looking for the training to be available nationally to educate people on animal welfare cases. Mr. Smith is looking to make a PowerPoint® presentation or video of an hour duration available for training. Mr. Smith stated that laws vary from state to state but most of the information will be relevant everywhere. Mr. Harris asked if Mr. Smith would consider doing a presentation to the Chenango County Magistrate trainings. Mr. Smith stated that he is hoping to have more information available for training opportunities soon.

Right to Farm Law

Mr. Ives referenced the Chenango County Right to Farm Law and stated that it was a good start but lacked the "teeth" to protect farmers. Mr. Butler stated that New York State Ag District Law and Ag & Markets Law are where the "teeth" come from. Those laws make it so a home buyer in an Ag district has to sign a paper making them acknowledge that they live in a farming area and may hear tractors, and animals or smells such as manure. Mr. Ives stated that the Town of Guilford tried to pass a right to farm law but the Town's lawyer shot it down stating it would be too difficult to enforce. Mr. Ives stated that the Guilford Town Law had included the need for mediation for the two sides to settle differences before legal action. Sup. Lawrence asked if a town that doesn't currently have a right to farm law can use the Counties law as a blueprint. Mr. Butler responded that a town can and that in the Chenango County Ag and Farmland Protection Plan the County's Right to Farm Law and the not approved Guilford law are available as a resource. Mr. Ryan asked what can the group do with the issue to right to farm laws, it comes up every year and doesn't seem to be going away. Mr. Smith responded that more education to non-farmers and farmers on the rights a farmer has and what it means to live in a farming community. The passage of a town right to farm law would be beneficial to farmers having local support.

Mr. Ryan made a motion to send a support letter to Agriculture Buildings & Grounds Committee recommending that each town or village adopt a right to farm law and the law include the need for a mediator, seconded by Mr. Smith. Members all voted ayes, motion carried.

Alternative Agriculture

Mr. Harris stated that Chobani is releasing a new product called Non-Dairy Chobani. The Non-Dairy Chobani is a yogurt like product but uses non-dairy based coconut base blended with probiotics, fruit, and with 25% less sugar.

Sup. Lawrence asked if Christmas trees can be a source of alternative agriculture for farmers. Mr. Smith responded that CCE is trying to get farmers to do more with their wood lots. Christmas trees take lots of time and energy to grow and prune, if a farmer is also doing corn or cows it would be difficult to devote that much time to the Christmas trees.

Open Discussion - Members

Mr. Smith stated that Chenango County is considering a bed tax for hotels in the County. The taxes are often used to promote tourism and could be used to promote Ag tourism. Sup. Lawrence expressed concerns with how the tax money would be spent.

Mr. Butler stated that for the upcoming Ag tour the best date would be the week of July 22nd to the 26th. The group decided to hold the Ag tour on Friday July 26th and will start discussing location for the event.

Sup. Lawrence stated that the State has devoted \$5 million in easements for a water buffer program. The easement would protect a riparian buffer and would last the life of the property, the land could no longer be used for farming or anything else once the easement is signed. An applicant can apply through soil and water and have the easement held by the local soil and water district. Sup. Lawrence stated that Chenango County Soil and Water Conservation District is not interested in holding an easement due to staffing issues.

Mr. Harris stated that lots of maple products are being sold and produced and question if the market could become saturated at some point dropping the price of the product. Mr. Smith responded that a very low amount of land can be used to produce maple products. The market for maple is managed in Quebec Canada and they don't let the price fall to low or they will buy the excess. Sup. Davis voiced concern that Quebec could release the maple on to the market lowering the price if it wanted.

Mr. Smith stated that new studies continue to come out showing the benefit of a dairy diet.

Mr. Ryan stated that it was recently announced that a hemp processing plant would be located in Broome County. Sup. Lawrence asked why hemp is so hard to grow in Chenango County. Mr. Smith responded that hemp grows very well in deep well drained, neutral PH soil, and very little of that exists in Chenango County. The places that do currently grow corn. Mr. Harris stated that SUNY Morrisville is developing a curriculum around hemp growing and production.

Mr. Ives discussed the importance of dairy promotion and the changes he would like to see. Mr. Ives feels that promotion is lacking in the promotion of milk as a fluid drink when compared to the promotion of butter and powdered milk product.

Mr. Butler stated that the Agriculture District Inclusion period will have a public notice in the Evening Sun and the New Berlin Gazette on February 1st of 2019.

Sup. Davis stated that money is available from the State for school lunch programs that serve New York grown products. Oneida County BOCES has contracted with Stoltzfus Family Dairy to provide 4oz containers of yogurt to children at lunch.

Open Discussion – Public

Ms. Paliotta stated that a family member in California tried to buy maple syrup from Chenango County but found it difficult finding maple producers in the County on Google. Ms. Paliotta asked why there is not a website showing maple producers in Chenango County and an easy way to order them. Mr. Butler responded that a website does exist through the CCE and Commerce Chenango. Mr. Butler stated that because of Googles algorithm it used to display results, a search for maple products initiated in California probably showed more local producers or products closer to Chenango County. This would bump the Chenango County websites lower down the page or possible onto another page. Ms. Paliotta asked if there was a way to move the websites so they are higher up

on the search results. Mr. Butler stated that where the information is displayed on a Google search is outside the Counties and maple producer's control.

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

The next meeting will be held on February 15, 2018 at 10:00 AM.

Minutes prepared by Corey Katusha, Planner

DRAFT

Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board
February 15, 2019 - MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Terry Ives; Sup. John Lawrence
Sup. Marge Davis; Stan Davis; and Shane Butler.

Guests Present: Canice Paliotta; Sandy Pierce; Chairman Wilcox

Minutes

Chairman Ives called the meeting to order at 10:05am.

Mr. Ives asked for any additions or corrections to the January 18, 2019 meeting minutes. Sup. Lawrence made a motion to approve the minutes; Seconded by Mr. Davis. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Ag Tour

Mr. Butler stated that the Planning Department is looking for suggestions for this year's Ag Tour. The Planning Department has reached out to a hemp farm in the Oxford area and is awaiting a response from the farmer. Members suggested Marshman farms for their cow embryo process, Kutik's new visitor's center and Norwich Meadows. Mr. Vickers suggested contacting Suzan Cody of the Farm Bureau Hemp Organization. She might be able to do a short presentation at the hemp farm to share information. Mr. Butler asked if it was okay for the Planning Department to contact the Hemp Farm, Marshman Farm, and Kutik's for the Ag Tour. Members agreed that it would be okay to start with those 3 locations and see which agree to a visit.

Ag District Review

Mr. Butler requests a motion to start the Ag District review of district 1A. The review period would be started in April with a public hearing on September 9th. The review process is required by NYS Agriculture and Markets Law 25-AA on an 8 year cycle. This will be the first review of district 1A since it has been expanded. The district was expanded to insure more than 51% of viable farmland is available which is required for an Ag District. Sup. Lawrence asked about the process of a property being sold in an Ag district and the buyer being required to sign a form acknowledging they are in an Ag District. Mr. Butler responded that the NYS Real-estate law requires Realtors to have their clients sign the form. Mr. Vickers stated that due to the amount of paperwork requiring signature when buying property it can be signed without properly being explained to the buyer.

Sup. Lawrence made a motion to start the review of Ag District 1A in April with a public hearing in September; Seconded by Mr. Vickers. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Ag Development Council (ADC)

Mr. Vickers stated the ADC is in discussion with the Chenango County Fair Board about space for their display. The ADC is looking for space along the main road running parallel to E. Main St. The ADC wants to host a weeklong list of events such as Farm to Fork day, Honey day, and others to highlight farming in the County. Mr. Ives asked if there was the possibility of having a mini farmers market at the location. Mr. Vickers stated it would be included in the Farm to Fork day.

Animal Welfare

Mr. Vickers stated that at the National Farm Bureau conference in New Orleans the New York Farm Bureau (NYFB) won an award for the animal welfare program. The Farm Bureau would like to develop a program to be deployed nationally. Mr. Vickers stated that Tennessee has a state wide training program available. The Tennessee program receives funds from organizations and Ag product producers to fund their program. Part of the funds go towards the care for animals that are seized in animal welfare cases. Mr. Vickers stated that many towns would go bankrupt providing care for animals seized in animal welfare cases. Tennessee also uses Ag and Markets staff to investigate animal welfare complaints before law enforcement gets involved. Mr. Vickers would like to do another training in Chenango County. Chairman Wilcox asked if the next training could get the courts and judges in the County involved. Mr. Vickers stated he would like to get them more involved. Sup. Lawrence stated that most towns only have a dog control officer and due to Ag and Markets law the dog control officer can't make welfare assessments on farm animals.

Right to Farm

Mr. Butler stated that Mr. Katusha drafted a letter for town supervisors whose towns currently don't have a right to farm law. Mr. Butler asked for members to review it and make suggestions on changes. With no changes necessary Mr. Ives signed the letter to be placed in the town supervisors mail boxes.

Alternative Agriculture

Mr. Ives would like a video played about a North Carolina food system next meeting shared to him by Ms. Pierce. Sup. Lawrence remarked about the possible law by Gov. Cuomo legalizing marijuana use in New York State.

Open Discussion - Members

Mr. Ives stated that he was appointed to the Guilford Town Board and is hoping to reintroduce the Right to Farm Law in Guilford. Mr. Ives asked if there is a chart of the Farm Bill funding showing the breakdown of farmer funding versus funding for the SNAP program. Mr. Vickers stated that a chart is not available but roughly 80% of funding in the Farm Bill goes towards the SNAP program. The funding is unable to be split because it can affect funding to other sources.

Mr. Ives stated that he would be attending a regional dairy meeting in Florida in March. Dairy promotion has been getting flack over the amount of money it takes out of farmer's milk checks. Mr. Ives stated that farmers have to look at the amount of money that dairy promotion has brought in as well.

Mr. Vickers asked if there had been any update on the non-mammal milk labeling proposed by the FDA. Sup. Davis stated that the FDA has extended the public comment period. The new law would make it so plant based liquid drinks could not be labeled as milk. Milk labels would apply only to products coming from animals.

Sup. Davis stated that a recent article in the Farm Journal discussed growing and cultivation hemp. Sup. Davis felt the farming and cultivation of hemp seemed very difficult. Sup. Lawrence stated that according to Ken Smith of Cornell the land needed to grow hemp is the same land needed to grow corn. Only a limited amount of the land is available to successfully grow corn. Mr. Vickers stated that the new farm bill does have funds available to support hemp farming.

Sup. Davis mention Commissioner Ball has developed a NY Thursday program for schools to serve local food. Sup. Davis asked if the BOCES superintendent Perry Dewy was aware of the program and is doing it in Chenango County Schools. Mr. Butler responded that the Planning Department could reach out to him and find out.

Mr. Vickers updated the group on the following:

- NYFB is involved with Commissioner Ball's Milk advisory committee. They are discussing issues of the day, advocating for additional processing, and supporting new marketing efforts at the state level, including involving dairy in NY Grown and Certified and Taste NY programs.
- Advocated for a revised and more flexible safety net for dairy farmers in the new Farm Bill, including a new Dairy Margin Coverage Program. It is cheaper for smaller farms and offers a wider margin of coverage. American Farm Bureau (AFB) also created a new dairy risk management program that is modeled after traditional crop insurance programs. It is one more option for farmers to cover their losses if they choose to buy into it.
- Advocating for whole milk in schools. USDA now allows low fat 1% flavored milk. Also, asking that Greek Yogurt be properly recognized for its nutritional content in new school nutrition guidelines.
- We have been vocal on the trade and tariff issues and have encouraged lawmakers to find more open markets. Supply and demand is key to this farm economy issue.
- Advocating for better business climate and NYS budget funding for programs like pro-dairy and NY FarmNet which help farms with research, business planning and emotional support during dairy crisis.
- NYFB Regional Meetings: Our local meeting will be on February 19th at Broome CCE at 840 Upper Front St. (Ag Development Center/TasteNY Store) from Noon to 2pm. Lunch will be served at 11:30am before the meeting. This meeting is great for what is happening in FB, Albany and Washington DC, and is almost a must for those going to Lobby Day. It is free to attend, just let Bradd Vickers & Lindsay Wickham know.
- Lobby Day: March 4th & 5th this is your chance to march the halls of Albany and talk to your state legislators, and more importantly your adopted ones from NYC. Lobby Day is March 5th, but the night before NYFB host the NYFB Taste of NY reception, where around 80 vendors/farmers from all over NY offer samples of everything you can imagine, ie. BBQ, wine, apple pie, ice cream, beer, yogurt, Long Island duck, etc.
- Chenango County Ag Day March 20th at the Silo Restaurant from 11-2pm.

Sup. Lawrence asked if an Ag survey has been done to show what farmers are currently growing and what they are doing for extra income. Mr. Butler responded that the Ag census will show what the majority of farmers are growing in Chenango County but not down to the individual. Mr. Butler stated that it is difficult to get people to respond to mail in surveys and that a door to door type survey may have better results. Ms. Pierce stated that she was looking for volunteers to do such a survey. Mr. Butler stated that perhaps a student from Cornell would be interested in doing such a project as a graduate project.

Open Discussion – Public

Ms. Paliotta stated that she was going to meet with Congressman Brindisi in Utica. She stated she would share any concerns the group had with the Congressman and let the group know how the meeting went.

Ms. Pierce questioned the reference in the Chenango County Farmland Protection Plan of a meat processing plant and an oil seed plant. Ms. Pierce asked what happened to the projects and if they were successful. Mr. Butler stated that at least 4 meat processing plants were proposed but none had been built. One was going to be a mobile butcher shop and 3 meat processing plants were proposed for a site in Sherburne. Due to lack of funds and public perception of meat processing plants none were ever built. Mr. Vickers was working on the oil seed plant but due to startup costs and lack of funds was unable to start the project.

Mr. Ives asked how Ms. Pierce's meeting with the Norwich City Council went. Ms. Pierce responded that she would update the group next month.

With no further discussion, Sup. Lawrence motioned to adjourn, second by Mr. Vickers. Meeting ends at 11:28 AM.

The next meeting will be held on March 15, 2018 at 10:00 AM.

Minutes prepared by Corey Katusha, Planner

Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board March 15, 2019 - MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Terry Ives; Sup. John Lawrence
Sup. Marge Davis; Stan Davis; Steven Harris; and Shane Butler.

Guests Present: Chairman Wilcox; Sup. George Seneck

Minutes

Chairman Ives called the meeting to order at 10:04am.

Mr. Ives asked for any additions or corrections to the February 15, 2019 meeting minutes. Sup. Lawrence made a motion to approve the minutes; Seconded by Sup. Davis. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Ag Tour

Mr. Katusha stated that the locations for the Ag tour are Rhapsody horse farm, Kutik's Honey and the Peila farm. Mr. Ives asked if donations had been secured for the tour. Mr. Butler stated that funds had been secured to pay for the event in house this year. Sup. Davis asked if a location for lunch has been figured out yet. Mr. Katusha responded that currently a lunch location has not been selected. Mr. Ives suggested that the tour visit the Peila farm first, then Kutik's and then Rhapsody farms. Mr. Katusha stated he would work on scheduling the tour itinerary and a lunch location.

Ag Inclusions

Mr. Katusha stated that this year four parcels requested to be included in an Ag district. The four parcels totaled 272.61 acres with the parcels being located in Norwich, North Norwich and Smyrna. Mr. Harris asked if the property owner for the parcels that are leased were made aware that the property would be included in an Ag district. Mr. Katusha stated that he had not reached out to the property owners. Mr. Harris recommended that the property owners be made aware of the inclusion should they have any objections.

Mr. Butler made a motion to submit the Ag inclusions to Ag buildings and grounds committee pending a phone call to the property owner; seconded by Mr. Harris. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Ag Development Council (ADC)

Mr. Katusha stated the ADC is in discussion with the Chenango County Fair Board about space for their display. The ADC is looking for space along the main road running parallel to E. Main St. The ADC wants to host a weeklong list of events such as Farm to Fork day, Honey day, and others to highlight farming in the County.

Animal Welfare

Mr. Harris stated that at the County Magistrates meeting he mentioned the animal welfare training and others in attendance seemed interested.

NY Thursdays School Lunch

Mr. Butler stated that Rena Doing of the Planning Department had reached out to BOCES but has not heard a response regarding local school lunch programs.

Sup. Davis stated that New York Thursdays started in school systems in 2015-2016 in New York City. The goal of the program was to serve more locally sourced food to students. New York State Ag and Markets (NYSAM) helped launch the program and brought it to the Southern tier. A new program that was launched in cooperation with NYSAM and New York State Education Department (NYSED) offers a 25¢ per meal for local food. The reimbursement can't be used for USDA products already provided for by the National Food Lunch Program (NSLP). Sup. Lawrence asked how schools know what items they can use and if it's difficult for schools to acquire those items. Mr. Harris stated that often BOCES has a school lunch coordinator that helps schools plan their menus and secure products needed. Sup. Davis asked if BOCES was aware of the 25¢ reimbursement program and are looking to help schools utilize it. Mr. Harris suggested contacting Perry Dewey the District Superintendent of BOCES to come and speak at the meeting.

Mr. Ives stated that the push to bring whole milk into schools has become more difficult. The price of whole milk compared to others is higher and schools don't want to pay the extra price. Sup. Lawrence asked if the price was significant compared to the milk already offered in schools. Mr. Ives stated that it can be 2-3¢ higher per carton. Mr. Ives also mentioned that schools in Binghamton are having trouble getting bids for half pints of milk.

Alternative Agriculture

Mr. Butler shared a handout from Rob DeClue about an Industrial Hemp Conference that took place in February. The presentation will be available online soon.

Open Discussion - Members

Mr. Ives found a checklist by American Farmland Trust and asked if members should fill it out and possibly share with Town Supervisors. The checklist evaluates if the town is supporting local agriculture. Mr. Ives felt it would provide ideas for towns who do not support agriculture and for towns that do to evaluate their commitment. Mr. Ives stated that studies show wind mills can affect dairy cow production. The Town of Guilford which Mr. Ives is a resident of is the site for a large wind farm that is in development. Mr. Ives also stated that property values can be impacted by their proximity to the windmills. Mr. Harris stated that property values don't get impacted as much as people think. A study of the windmills in Madison County showed that property values didn't get affected that much, after an extended period of time the windmills became part of the landscape. Dairy day will be on the 3rd Saturday in June at the County fairgrounds.

Mr. Butler stated that the Planning Department recently started a Facebook page. The department is using it to advertise some of their programs and to make people aware. Mr. Butler asked the group to like it and share it so that it gets more visibility.

Mr. Harris stated that he and other Assessors are having issues getting Ag renewal applications back by the March 1st deadline. Sending out letters and phone calls have not helped, the same people always seem to be the issue. Mr. Harris stated that the State is starting to audit Assessors and make them remove the farms that do not reapply. Chairman Wilcox stated that many farmers are just complacent with what they have and don't want to do the paperwork. Perhaps an application that lasts a few years could be beneficial.

With no further discussion, Sup. Lawrence motioned to adjourn, second by Mr. Davis. Meeting ended at 11:09 AM.

The next meeting will be held on April 19, 2019 at 10:00 AM.

Minutes prepared by Corey Katusha, Planner

Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board
April 19, 2019 - MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Terry Ives; Sup. John Lawrence;
Sup. Marge Davis; Stan Davis; Stephen Harris; Bradd Vickers; Rob DeClue and Shane Butler.

Guests Present: Chairman Wilcox; Sup. George Seneck; Dave Dibbell;
Nicole Tommell

Minutes

Chairman Ives called the meeting to order at 10:03am.

Mr. Ives asked for any additions or corrections to the March 15, 2019 meeting minutes. Sup. Lawrence made a motion to approve the minutes; Seconded Mr. Harris. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Ken Dibbell Member Emeritus

Mr. Ives presented Mr. Dave Dibbell, who is accepting the award on behalf of his father, with the Member Emeritus certificate and a letter of appreciation for service. Mr. Ives stated that Ken was an important figure on the board and for the farming community. Chairman Wilcox stated that the Board of Supervisors passed a resolution last month thanking Ken Dibbell for his service on the Ag and Farm Board. David Dibbell thanked the board and stated that his father would love to attend meetings but is unable due to health reasons. David Dibbell stated that he would give the certificate and letter to his father later today and share a picture with the group.

Ag Economic Development

Ms. Nicole Tommell presented to the group on Ag economic development programs she has been a part of in surrounding counties. Ms. Tommell has been working with Montgomery, Herkimer, and Madison Counties on classes for farmers in the areas of business planning, tax finance, marketing, and business finance. Ms. Tommell discussed the programs and the outcomes she has seen and hopes to see from them. Ms. Tommell stated that from June 10th to the 14th a Dairy DMC will be held at the American Legion in Earlville. Ms. Tommell then went over some of the new Ag Census numbers for Chenango County. Sup. Lawrence asked if the growing number of beef cattle was from new farms or dairy farmers transitioning. Ms. Tommell responded that it is a mixture of new farms and dairy farmers transitioning. Sup. Lawrence asked if the beef was slaughtered locally in New York. Ms. Tommell responded that not many facilities exist in New York and they fill up openings quickly. Mr. Butler stated that at least three (3) slaughter houses were proposed in Sherburne, but public outcry prevented the projects.

Chesapeake Bay Update

Mr. DeClue presented an update on the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP). Mr. DeClue stated that the WIP project is in its third and final stage for completion in 2025. A public comment period on the project is running until June 7th and Mr. DeClue encouraged everyone to submit comments or concerns. Mr. DeClue handed out a pamphlet with information on the cleanup project. Mr. DeClue stated that three pollutants are of interest; nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment. The pamphlet included a table of solutions for farmers that include cover crops, feed management, nutrient management, and others. Mr. DeClue stated that the plan identified challenges for farmers looking to make changes; they include dairy prices, labor costs, and others. A discussion followed regarding the impact of the WIP project to local farmers. Main points include the lack of funding for farmers to implement suggested changes and the difficulty for farmers looking to be good environmental stewards. Mr. DeClue also shared his thoughts to the group regarding comments made by United States Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue on small local farms. Mr. Butler stated that an invitation to the annual Ag tour would be sent to Mr. Perdue with the hope he will attend and understand how important small local farms are. Mr. DeClue stated that a new conservation easement program for farmland is only to protect municipal water resources and farms have to be within a certain proximity of those resources to be eligible.

Ag & Farmland Protection Plan

Mr. Butler stated the new Ag Census numbers for 2017 have been released. The census shows the most up to date record of farming in Chenango County. The last Chenango County Ag & Farmland Protection Plan was updated in 2012 and is now five years behind on current data. Mr. Butler felt that because the County, Ag & Farmland Protection Board, and other local agency's use the plan for decision making process it should be updated. A grant from New York State Ag and Markets (NYSAM) is available to help develop and write the new plan. While talking with Jeff Kehoe of NYSAM he advised that an update rather than a total rewrite of the plan would be best. Mr. Butler asked if the group would like to have planning apply for the grant to update the plan. Mr. Ives asked how much it would be to update the plan. Mr. Butler stated that he wasn't sure at this time and planning is looking at other grant applicants for an idea on project cost.

Sup. Lawrence made a motion to let planning apply for a grant to update the Ag & Farmland Protection plan and to figure out the cost to Ag buildings and grounds committee; seconded by Mr. Vickers. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Ag Tour

Mr. Katusha stated that the locations for the Ag tour are Rhapsody horse farm, Kutik's Honey and the Peila farm. Mr. Katusha has reached out to Rhapsody farms to confirm the time of the visit was appropriate. Mr. Katusha stated that lunch at Hoppies in Oxford was not possible due to that week being Oxford Alumni week. The next option is pizza and salad from Joe and Vinnies in Oxford to be served at Boname memorial park in Oxford. Mr. Katusha was unsure if bathrooms were available at the locations for the visitors. Sup. Davis responded that bathrooms are available at the park. Mr. Ives suggested reaching out to Oxford Mayor Terry Stark on the parks availability.

Ag Inclusions

Mr. Katusha stated that this year four parcels requested to be included in an Ag district. The four parcels totaled 272.61 acres with the parcels being located in Norwich, North Norwich and Smyrna. A public hearing is scheduled for May 13th and after the inclusions will be accepted. Mr. Ives asked if the property owners of the leased properties were notified about the inclusions. Mr. Katusha stated that he reached out to the property owners and to make sure they had no objections.

Ag Training

Mr. Butler stated that an agricultural and food summit is being held by Southern Tier Eight Regional Planning Council. Event will take place on May 23rd and Mr. Butler encouraged others to attend.

Ag Development Council (ADC)

Mr. Smith was not present so no update was available.

Animal Welfare

Mr. Vickers stated that the training is being moved along the State. New information regarding sheriff trainings and how it is broken up into districts could help circulate the training. Mr. Harris stated that at the County Magistrates meeting he mentioned the animal welfare training and others in attendance seemed interested.

NY Thursdays School Lunch

Mr. Katusha stated that DCMOBOCES Superintendent Perry Dewey has been invited to speak at the next board meeting on May 17th. Mr. Katusha is waiting on confirmation if he will be attending. Mr. Dewey will be presenting on the NY Thursday School Lunch Program and the Farm to School Lunch Program.

Open Discussion - Members

Sup. Davis stated that Dairy Day will be held on June 15th with the parade starting at 10am, it will be the 19th Dairy Day held. Mr. Vickers asked if people farming goats for milk would be able to attend. Sup. Davis stated that they were welcome to come and the event was for all farming in the County not just dairy farmers. Sup. Davis stated that if anyone was interested in a display or host a function to let her know.

Sup. Davis brought attention to hay bales being used as billboards in Pennsylvania to promote whole milk drinking. Farmers spray-paint the bales with information on the positives of whole milk. Sup. Lawrence asked if one could be set up at the County Fair for attendees to see. Mr. Ives suggested having one for Dairy Day would be beneficial as well.

Mr. Vickers stated that he was glad that the County expressed its opposition to the proposed law that would make farmers have to pay overtime for farmhands for workweeks over 40 hours. The Ag Day Celebration at the Silo restaurant went extremely well and Mr. Vickers was glad to see the news coverage it had generated. Congressman Anthony Brindisi will be at Gibson School in Norwich on April 24th from 6-9pm. The Congressman is trying to learn more about the importance of farming. Mr. Vickers stated that of the \$175 billion government budget; funding for programs that benefit farmers only receive 1/10th of 1% of the funds.

Sup. Seneck stated that a draft of the Town of Guilford Right to Farm Law will be presented to the Town of Guilford Board and hopefully adopted. Sup. Seneck thanked Mr. Ives along with others for the hard work they put into the law. Sup. Seneck gave an

update on the proposed wind project in the Town of Guilford.

Sup. Lawrence stated that the Town of Afton will be passing its Right to Farm Law next month.

With no further discussion Mr. Vickers made a motion to adjourn at 11:40am; seconded by Sup. Davis. Members all voted ayes, motion carried.

The next meeting will be held on May 17, 2019 at 10:00 AM.

Minutes prepared by Corey Katusha, Planner

DRAFT

Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board
May 17, 2019 - MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Terry Ives; Kenneth Ryan; Sup. John Lawrence;
Stephen Harris; Bradd Vickers; Ken Smith and Shane Butler.

Guests Present: Sup. George Seneck; DCMOBOCES Director Perry Dewey

Minutes

Chairman Ives called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

Mr. Ives asked for any additions or corrections to the April 19, 2019 meeting minutes. Sup. Lawrence made a motion to approve the minutes; Seconded Mr. Harris. Members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Mr. Dewey Lunch Program Presentation

Guest Perry Dewey presented on School lunch programs New York Thursdays and Farm to School. Both are government programs designed to bring local food into schools. The programs offer reimbursements to the school for the lunches served that utilize local foods. Challenges with the program include a short growing season, preservation of the food, communication with schools, transportation, and lack of a food hub in Chenango County. Mr. Dewey stated that because the programs are so new, regulations on the programs have yet to be written. However, any restriction on the schools will ultimately trickle down to restrictions on the farmer. Schools can't use the New York Thursdays or Farm to School reimbursements on foods that are already being bought using Federal Government funds. That is seen as "double dipping" on the funds available for school lunches. DCMOBOCES role in the programs would be helping schools with procurement of the foods. DCMOBOCES currently offers a six cent (6¢) reimbursement for locally grown food but most of the reimbursement goes towards milk. Afton, Bainbridge-Guilford, Norwich, Unadilla Valley, Greene, and Sherburne-Earlville are currently using that program. Mr. Dewey stated that even with the reimbursements most school lunch programs don't break even.

Sup. Lawrence asked if the school makes the decision to be part of the lunch programs offered. Mr. Dewey responded that the school makes those decisions, and sometimes they have a staff person who is already bringing in local food for lunches. Sup. Lawrence asked how difficult it was for the school to track the expenses to be reimbursed. Mr. Dewey stated that as long as there was a paper trail it is not hard to prove the need for reimbursement. Sup. Lawrence asked if a farm had to be certified to be apart if the school programs. Mr. Dewey stated that he did not believe that farms had to be certified to take part. Sup. Lawrence asked if there was a middle man between the school and the farmer. Mr. Dewey responded that there is not one currently but a food hub would be the middle man. The food hub would take the local farmed product, package, and transport the product to schools or other interested buyers. Mr. Dewey felt that if the AFPB wanted to get involved that the group should focus on developing a food hub for Chenango County.

Mr. Butler stated that Norwich Meadow Farms is in discussion with the Chenango County IDA about developing a food hub. Mr. Smith stated that the hub would be used to package and transport food to high end restaurants in New York City, Boston and Delaware among other places. Mr. Smith added that the programs don't present an opportunity to small local farms, but much larger operations.

Ag & Farmland Protection Plan

Mr. Butler stated that after sending emails to New York State Ag and Markets the answers to questions the Planning Department has where unclear. Mr. Butler stated that the grant seems to be geared towards hiring out the process of writing the plan and not updating in house. Mr. Butler was unsure if the grant was worth pursuing for the little amount of money the County would be asking for versus the amount of administration required. Mr. Butler stated he would update the group next meeting.

Ag Tour

Mr. Katusha stated that the Rhapsody horse farm located in Plymouth had dropped out of being a site on the Ag Tour earlier in the week. This left one vacant space, however two farms had interest in having the group stop during the tour. One location is SOVA Farms in Norwich and the other Hidden Pond Horse Farm in Norwich. The group discussed and decided that SOVA farms would be a better fir to visit on this year's Ag Tour.

Ag Survey for Towns

Mr. Katusha stated that at the request of Chenango County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board (AFPB) a survey by American Farmland Trust entitled "Is Your Town Planning a Future for Agriculture?" was shared with the twenty-three (23) Town Supervisors in Chenango County. The survey composed of twenty-four (24) questions asking towns to review the local policies they have currently in place. Out of the twenty-three (23) surveys sent to Town Supervisors, only six (6) were returned for a response rate of 28.57%. One reason for the lack of responses could be from the survey being long and semi-complicated, or questions being not applicable. The questions required a lot of knowledge and research into the town's policies. For many towns the local laws the questions referred to do not exist. For some questions, the local Farm Bureau, Cornell Cooperative Extension and New York State Ag and Markets may already offer protection/services for the town. Mr. Katusha stated that another survey from American Farmland Trust is available but is for County Governments. Mr. Ives stated that he would like to share it with the group next meeting.

Ag Development Council (ADC)

Mr. Smith stated that the ADC is working with the Chenango County Fair Board on having a weeklong list of displays for the fair. Every day would be a different topic and the proposed name is Chenango Ag and Outdoors. Mr. Vickers asked if Mr. Smith was aware of issues with the fair. Mr. Smith stated that the only issues he is aware of is a possible funding issue.

Animal Welfare

Mr. Vickers stated that the training is being moved along the State. New information regarding sheriff trainings and how it is broken up into districts could help circulate the training. Mr. Vickers stated that the next step is to get local judges involved so that cases aren't just thrown out due to lack of knowledge.

Open Discussion - Members

Mr. Vickers stated that the Chenango County Farm Bureau is looking to update the New York State fence law. The law is old and still has regulations in it for the early 1900s. Representative Brindisi had a town meeting in Norwich and discussed his policies and interest in agriculture. At a meeting Donna Lupardo the States Ag Chair stated that the proposed labor law requiring farm workers be paid overtime would not pass in its current version.

Mr. Smith stated that the CCE has received a grant on education of tick borne illnesses. The grant is an eighteen (18) month grant and will include educational videos, posters, and talks. A couple numbers from the Ag Census stood out to Mr. Smith. The number of maple taps in the County has more than doubled and Mr. Smith feels it has doubled again. A jump in organic sales is related to the expansion of Norwich Meadows and the increase of Amish dairy farmers.

Sup. Senek that the Town of Guilford is on round three (3) of its local law on renewable energy. A public hearing is scheduled for June 12th on the proposed law. The Calpine High Bridge Wind project is looking to file with the state in mid-June or early July. Mr. Smith asked what the economic impact to the Town of Guilford would be. Sup. Senek responded that they have not talked at this point about the economics of the proposal. The company will most likely file for a PIOLIT through the Chenango County IDA and Guilford will be part of a host community agreement. The numbers for those deals still have to be worked out. The Town of Guilford will most likely pass its right to farm law next month.

Mr. Harris stated that plant based food products are becoming a big item. Both Burger King and Carl's Jr now offer a burger that is made of 100% plant proteins. McDonalds, Red Robbin, and other fast food chains will be soon to follow. The industry has moved away from using soy proteins and now uses pea proteins. Mr. Harris felt that peas could be grown in New York and farmers could take advantage of a growing market. Grievance day for property assessments is May 29th.

Mr. Butler stated that the Southern Tier Eight Ag Summit is scheduled for May 23rd of next week.

Sup. Lawrence stated that the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has hired a new employee Elena Covington. Elena is overseeing an Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) for grasslands The program emphasizes support for grazing operations, plant and animal biodiversity, and grassland and land containing shrubs and forbs under the greatest threat of conversion. The program that provides funding to of \$15/acre to encourage farmers to keep more land as grasslands. A new Wetlands Reserve Easement (WRE) program is available to help with beaver destruction on lands. The Town of Afton passed its Right to Farm Law last month and a solar project is being proposed in Afton.

Mr. Ives stated that due to the wet weather not much corn has been able to be planted. The price of commodities are all over the place due to the U.S. China trade war. Dairy class three (3) milk prices have been rising. Dairy Day is scheduled for next month.

With no further discussion Mr. Vickers made a motion to adjourn at 11:40am; seconded by Mr. Ryan. Members all voted ayes, motion carried.

The next meeting will be held on June 21, 2019 at 10:00 AM.

Minutes prepared by Corey Katusha, Planner

DRAFT

Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board June 21, 2019 - MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Terry Ives; Kenneth Ryan; Stanley Davis; Sup. Marge Davis;
Sup. John Lawrence; and Shane Butler.

Guests Present: Sup. George Seneck; Nora Ling-Browning; Sandy Pierce

Minutes

Chairman Ives called the meeting to order at 10:00am.

Mr. Ives asked for any additions or corrections to the May 17, 2019 meeting minutes. Sup. Lawrence made a motion to approve the minutes; Seconded Mr. Ryan voted all ayes, motion carried.

Introductions

The group members introduced themselves and welcomed new member Nora Ling-Browning.

Ag Tour

Mr. Katusha stated that he has received eighteen (18) RSVPs for the Ag tour so far. Those attending include members of New York State Department of State, local representatives, federal and state representatives, and members of local organizations. RSVPs are due July 8th.

Agriculture District Review

Mr. Katusha explained Ag district review and observations he has noticed. Mr. Katusha asked if properties that are less than one (1) acre that have not filled out the worksheet could be removed. Mr. Katusha stated that many landowners with smaller properties are wondering why they are receiving the sheet. Mr. Katusha felt eliminating the smaller acreages would improve the response to the Ag district program. Mr. Ives and others felt that the remove of properties less than one (1) acre to those who didn't fill out the worksheet was fair. Mr. Katusha asked the group how they would define a farm. Sharing definitions used by New York State and USDA Agricultural Census Program. Some discussion followed on what characteristics would be used to define a farm and if those characteristics included lot size, farm sales, among others. Sup. Davis stated maybe having questions on the sheet such as is your land primarily used for agriculture, and does your primary income come from agriculture. The answers to these and possible one other question would help to determine if the land is a farm or not. Mr. Butler explained that currently we use the property codes from the assessors to make our decision. However some properties are not coded correctly. Mr. Ryan stated that there is no simple answer to what a farm is and the best course was to continue the review with how it has been done in the past.

Ag Survey for County

Mr. Katusha shared the "Is your county planning a future for farms?" worksheet. Mr. Katusha asked if the group wanted to fill out the survey at the meeting or take it and go over next meeting. Mr. Ives suggested members filling it out the survey separately and to go over next meeting.

Sandy Pierce Food hub

Ms. Pierce updated the group on the Norwich Farmers Market and her idea for a Chenango County Food Hub. Main highlights include:

- Farmers markets are ever evolving and continue to face struggles. Some of those struggles include the loss of vendors due to selling the farm, no longer having time to attend a farmers market, and the rise of online shopping.
- It is important for local farmers to have a place to sell their products as a means to earn income. It is equally important for local consumers to have access to locally grown products.
- A "Food Hub" as defined by Ms. Pierce could help provide locally grown food to consumers
- Due to multiple agency failures the usage of East Park in the City of Norwich for the Norwich Farmers has become more difficult.
- Received a grant from Farm Credit East for the markets use of the SNAP program.

Ms. Ling-Browning asked if the market could be located someplace else that would be more accommodating. Ms. Pierce stated that East Park is the ideal location and when the market moved in past it lost customers.

Open Discussion

Ms. Ling-Browning discussed the possibility of a business incubator with a commercial kitchen. This would allow local farmers to make products and sell them at local markets. Mr. Butler responded that the Chenango County Cornell Cooperative Extension tried to apply for a grant for a maker's space but was unable to secure funds. Broome County applied for a grant through the Appalachian Regional Commission for the project. Mr. Butler stated that a needs assessment was developed to show the need in the area. With SUNY-Morrisville being an Agricultural School Mr. Butler felt that they would be interested in the idea.

With no further discussion meeting adjourn at 11:22am.

The next meeting will be held on July 19, 2019 at 10:00 AM.

Minutes prepared by Corey Katusha, Planner

DRAFT

Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board July 19, 2019 - MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Terry Ives; Kenneth Ryan; Stanley Davis; Sup. Marge Davis;
Sup. John Lawrence; Nora Ling-Browning; Bradd Vickers.

Guests Present: Sup. George Seneck; Sandy Pierce

Minutes

Chairman Ives called the meeting to order at 10:05am.

Mr. Ives asked for any additions or corrections to the June 21, 2019 meeting minutes. Sup. Lawrence made a motion to approve the minutes; Seconded Mr. Davis voted all ayes, motion carried.

Ag Tour

Mr. Katusha stated that he has received thirty-three (33) RSVPs for the Ag tour so far. Those attending include members of New York State Department of State, local representatives, federal and state representatives, and members of local organizations. The tour will visit SOVA Farms in New Berlin, Kutik's Honey Farm in Oxford and Peila Farms in Oxford. The tour will take place on Friday July 26th and attendees will meet at the Cornell Cooperative Extension in Norwich to take the bus.

Agriculture District Review

Mr. Katusha explained Ag district review process and the results from the data that was received by those that answered the questioner survey. Main highlights include

- 3880 review sheets were sent out to property owners and asked to be returned by July 1st, 2019.
- The 1101 responses were sorted and used to determine if the property is used for farming, consists of viable or nonviable farmland, or if the property owner wishes to be removed from the district.
- The data was extrapolated to provide estimates of 101,637 acres in farms, 1,660 farms in the district, 93,937 acres farmed, and 7,700 acres rented and farmed.
- This information was compared to the 2011 review of Ag District #1A to show that 1932 acres were added to the district. However, and estimated 11,486 acres of farmland were lost, along with an estimated 752 farms.

Mr. Katusha stated that this year's review the committee agreed to remove properties less than one (1) acre from the district if the property owner did not respond. Mr. Katusha stated that director of real property tax Stephen Harris mentioned that when a property is subdivided the Ag distinction should be removed. However, many local assessors do not remove the distinction leading to many small-subdivided lots retaining the Ag district distinction. Sup. Seneck stated that maybe more local assessor knowledge is needed to address the issue. Mr. Katusha stated that he would need a motion to send the Ag District #1A Report to Ag buildings and Grounds.

**Mr. Vickers made a motion to send the Ag District #1A report to Ag Buildings and Grounds Committee.
Seconded by Sup. Lawrence; members all voted ayes, motion carried.**

Ag Survey for County

Mr. Katusha shared the "Is your county planning a future for farms?" worksheet. Mr. Katusha asked if the group wanted to go over the survey or give them to County Planning and have them draft a report. Mr. Ives stated that a report would be beneficial. Mr. Katusha will share the results at the next meeting.

Animal Welfare

Mr. Vickers stated that animal welfare trainings are still ongoing in New York State. Delaware County is looking to host a similar training to the one Mr. Vickers coordinated in Chenango County. The next piece of the puzzle is to get local judges involved in the training so they are aware of the laws.

Mr. Ives stated that a new group is posting videos showing animal abuse in farm operations. Mr. Ives stated that farmers are being told not to comment on the videos but to be cautious of people taking videos and looking for abuse. Mr. Katusha asked if there was videos showing how farmers should handle animals to avoid abuse. Mr. Ives stated that he was sure there are some put they do not get the publicity that the abuse videos receive.

Chenango County Regional Farmers Market

Ms. Ling-Browning shared her proposal for a regional farmers market in Chenango County. Main Highlights include

- To create Chenango County Regional Farmers Market, with a Business & Kitchen Incubator where our Farmers/Artisans can create, collaborate and sell their products locally, year round.
- The establishment of a Chenango County Regional Farmers Market is an economic development opportunity that can help preserve and grow our farms, as well as our agricultural history, by giving our farmers/artisans another venue to market their products.
- A commercialized kitchen where an insured individual can rent and utilize the facility at a set rate. It is a “low-risk opportunity [for an individual/business] to test, scale and develop without the cost and liability in equipping, managing and maintaining your own commercial facility.
- Some sites to consider the placement of the Farmers Market is the old Rite Aid Building in Norwich and the Chenango County Fairgrounds.

Ms. Ling-Browning stated that in talking with Mary Weidman she expressed interest in having a farmer’s market location at the County Fairgrounds. The idea was to finish the grandstands to include an area for a farmers market. Mr. Katusha stated that when Ms. Weidman visited the planning office she expressed interest in an IRT engineering project. Mr. Ives stated that the grandstand area has flooded before and was not sure if that would be the best area. Mr. Davis stated that the area has been raised with fill by about two (2) feet. Mr. Davis was not sure if it would totally fix the flooding issue.

Ms. Pierce stated that Ashlee with Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) is working on developing an interactive map of Agriculture Producers in the County. This would help people know where local produce, dairy, and other products can be bought. Sup. Lawrence and others discussed the number of meat producers in the County and the limited number of slaughterhouses in New York State.

Sup. Davis stated that Chenango County has different economics and transportation difficulties than the surrounding areas. This makes it difficult for farmers markets and other industries to get going. Mr. Katusha stated that a “needs assessment” would be the next step and that would determine if the farmers market project would be utilized effectively in the County.

Call for New Members

Mr. Katusha stated that in looking through the New York State Ag and Markets law on County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Boards it was discovered that the current board needs one (1) more member. The current board has ten (10) members and according to the law, the board should have eleven (11) members. Mr. Ives asked what position the current vacancy should fill. Mr. Katusha stated that the Planning Department felt the new member should be an active farmer. Mr. Ives asked if Sup. Davis could be moved from legislative representative to active farmer and Sup. Seneck who attends the meetings to the board. Mr. Katusha stated he would check with the Director of Planning Mr. Butler and Chairman of the Board Sup. Wilcox.

Open Discussion

Mr. Davis stated that the Chenango County Fair is next month.

Mr. Vickers stated that he attended the meeting with Sonny Perdue the United States Secretary of Agriculture at Chobani. Mr. Vickers felt the meeting went well and that Mr. Perdue gained knowledge on the importance of agriculture in Chenango County and New York State. Mr. Vickers had worked with Assemblywomen Donna Lupardo on the Farm Workers bill; both were shocked that Governor Cuomo signed the bill without any of the recommended changes. Mr. Vickers stated that a committee is supposed to be formed to help implement the changes the bill requires. A member of the committee will be the American Federation of Labor & Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO). Mr. Vickers was skeptical that the committee members would have farmer’s best interest in mind. Mr. Vickers stated that a new climate change bill signed by Governor Cuomo would outlaw the burning of fossil fuels, even wood for heat. Chenango County is a rural area and many people still use wood stoves to heat their homes in the winter. Mr. Vickers expressed concern for those individuals due to current and future policy changes.

Sup. Seneck discussed the status of the High Bridge Windfarm project in Guilford.

Mr. Ryan discussed the loss of land due to the heavy rainfall in Oxford last month. He has not been able to receive any financial help to recover the land that was lost.

Sup. Lawrence discussed the current grant programs available through Chenango County Soil and Water.

Mr. Katusha stated he had reached out to Matt Caldwell from the City of Norwich to speak to the board regarding the issue with the Norwich Farmers Market in East Park. The group would like to hear what information Mr. Caldwell can share.

Sup. Davis stated that Cortland County has a display on the farm to school program and asked Ken Smith of CCE if the display could be shown at the Chenango County Fair.

Mr. Ives discussed the difference in property taxes from the three counties that he owns property.

With no further discussion meeting adjourn at 11:41am.

The next meeting will be held on August 16, 2019 at 10:00 AM.

Minutes prepared by Corey Katusha, Planner

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Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board
August 16, 2019 - MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Terry Ives; Kenneth Ryan; Stanley Davis; Sup. Marge Davis;
Sup. John Lawrence; Nora Ling-Browning; Bradd Vickers; Sup. George Seneck; Alice Andrews

Guests Present: Matthew Caldwell; Sandy Pierce; Sup. Lawrence Wilcox

Minutes

Chairman Ives called the meeting to order at 10:05am.

Mr. Ives asked for any additions or corrections to the July 19, 2019 meeting minutes. Sup. Seneck made a motion to approve the minutes; Seconded Sup. Lawrence voted all ayes, motion carried.

City of Norwich

Mr. Caldwell from the City of Norwich spoke to the members about the challenges the City of Norwich is facing regarding the Norwich Farmers Market. Mr. Caldwell stated that the City is supportive of the farmers market but that its hands are tied regarding certain uses on East Park. The City does not own the park and therefore cannot set limits on the parks use. Regarding the issue with the food truck on the park, Mr. Caldwell stated that the City could not grant the use of the park because the Chenango County Agriculture and Grounds Committee determines the use. Mr. Caldwell stated that he has seen food trucks and trailers on park grounds during certain events throughout the year. As far as having the truck on the street Mr. Caldwell stated that, the City has not taken any action yet to rectify the issue. Currently there are five to six vendor spots available yearly for use. The City offers those spots to those that had them the previous year first before they become available to the rest. Due to this, the spots are taken off the "market" due to the same vendors renting the spots. The vendors who rent the spots often use them for main events such as Gus Macker and Colorscape. The rest of the year, those spots sit empty when others could use them throughout the year. Mr. Caldwell has brought this to the City's attention but it was unpopular among City Council Members and those vendors that currently hold the spots. Mr. Butler stated he thought the agreement between the City and County was the City could use the park as they deem fit. Sup. Seneck stated that use of the park has to go through Chenango County Agriculture and Grounds Committee. Mr. Ives asked if the spots could be sublet for when the vendors are not using the spots. Mr. Caldwell stated he tried to bring up the idea but it was unpopular. Sup. Seneck stated that food trucks are becoming more popular and as such, the City will have to amend certain ordinances to allow and support use. Sup. Lawrence stated that if the City Council determines what vendors that can use the spots, then the Council should be able to put verbiage in regarding the use of the spots. Mr. Caldwell agreed and stated that perhaps next year the verbiage could be added so the spots can be used when the primary vendor is not using the spot. Sup Seneck stated that a recent email from Ms. Sandy Pierce of the Norwich Farmers Markets bylaws referenced a meeting of members. It appears that both the City and County have open spots on the board and perhaps attending the meeting would be beneficial.

Ag Tour

Mr. Katusha asked the members how they felt the 2019 Ag tour went. Members stated that they felt the tour was well attended and felt that all tour locations were appropriate. Mr. Vickers stated that he was happy to see a representative from Brindisi's office attend as well as Assemblywomen Donna Lupardo attend. Mr. Vickers stated that he was able to discuss changes to the state legislator. Mr. Ives stated that he was pleased with Kutik's Honey tour and felt they did a fantastic job. Sup. Lawrence stated that the first stop SOVA Farms had prepared comments for the legislators and asked if other tour locations were encouraged to do so. Mr. Katusha stated that tour locations are encouraged to speak with legislators about policy changes they would like to see. Mr. Butler asked what locations the members would like to see next year. Sup. Seneck felt that visiting some of the Amish farms in the County would be beneficial. Mr. Katusha stated that he would like to visit an Amish farm but it would take additional planning. Mr. Vickers stated that Rich Tabor of Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) has worked with a few Amish farms and might be able to assist. Mr. Ryan stated that he would be surprised if the Amish would agree to that many visitors on the property at one time. Sup. Lawrence stated that visiting schools that still offered an Ag program would be interesting. Mr. Ives asked the group to come up with ideas by November.

Ag Survey for County

Mr. Katusha shared the results from “Is your county planning a future for farms?” worksheet:

- Received five responses with the average score of 16.2. This placed the County on the yes on 15-19 range with the comment “your County has made important progress. Keep engaging farmers and others in doing more to support local agriculture”.
- Questions 6, 9, 12, 17, 20, 21, and 22 all had the lowest number of yes answers. Mr. Katusha went over possible reasons why

Mr. Katusha asked the members if they had any suggestions in ways to improve the Counties score. Mr. Katusha stated that perhaps holding yearly trainings for towns about the Ag districts would be beneficial.

(Full report of “Is your county planning a future for farms?” worksheet is available in the Planning office)

ADC

Ms. Alice Andrews of CCE offered updates. The CCE held its fourth annual Farm to Fork event during the Chenango County Fair. The CCE also hosted Chenango County Ag and Outdoors during the fair. Ms. Andrews stated that the CCE is open to suggestions on how to improve both events. Ms. Andrews stated some of the difficulty was having the scheduled vendors show up to display their information and others included the fair setup. Mr. Vickers asked if the fair attendance was down this year compared to others. Sup. Davis stated that she did not feel the attendance was down; however, it is hard to gather crowds during weekdays compared to weekends. Mr. Ives stated that during his stay at the fair he did not make it past the grandstands and felt the setup of the fair is difficult. Sup. Davis agreed and felt having Farm to Fork closer to the grandstands could be beneficial. Mr. Butler stated that Mary Weidman from the Fair Board has expressed interest in having the grandstands completed with a space available underneath for vendors and displays. They are currently looking for possible grand funds as well as an IRT event.

Animal Welfare

Mr. Vickers stated that animal welfare trainings are still ongoing in New York State. He is looking to hear from the State Veterinarians office for updates.

Privilege of the Floor

Mr. Vickers offered the following updates:

- Legislators are out meeting with the public. Mr. Vickers encouraged members to take part in those events. Mr. Vickers has attended several by Congressman Brindisi regarding dairy, veterans, broadband, cellphones, and internet services.
- The Broadband Data Improvement Act of 2019 (S.1522 and H.R.3162) is being proposed in the U.S. Congress and Senate to improve broadband data collection, mapping, and validation to support development of services (Congress.gov). Madison and Broome Counties are looking to develop their own broadband services system, and are interested in Chenango Counties input.
- Chenango County Farm Bureau and New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health (NYCAMH) are hosting An Agriculture Safety program on Monday August 19, 2019 from 2pm – 5pm. The program will include a PowerPoint presentation and demonstrations.
- The Farm Bureau is developing a policy in opposition to the Red Flag Law

Mr. Butler stated that Mr. Terry Potter of New Berlin is looking to start a wireless internet service in the County. He is currently looking for grant funding to start the project. Mr. Butler has already provided him with letters of support from multiple town supervisors.

Sup. Lawrence asked if there was anything in development to restrict milk producers from overproducing milk. Mr. Ives stated that co-ops are starting to clamp down on extra dairy production.

Mr. Ryan discussed the loss of land due to the heavy rainfall in Oxford in late May. He has not been able to receive any financial help to recover the land that was lost.

Sup. Seneck discussed the status of the High Bridge Windfarm project in the Town of Guilford. Thanks to research by Mr. Ives, they have been unable to find any truthful claims regarding impacts to agriculture. The Town is looking to pass a Renewable Energy Law for the project. Mr. Ryan did not feel that the local law would be able to hold the company accountable for much due to the project status. Mr. Butler explained the PSC Article 10 process and stated that if the law were passed before the application is turned in then the law would be effective.

Mr. Katusha asked if the members would like to go over the goals of the AFPB sometime this year. Mr. Ives asked for the goals to be reviewed at the October meeting.

Ms. Ling-Browning went over her recent experience at the Arm to Farm event provided by the National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) with their ATTRA-Sustainable Agriculture program. The program provides training for military veterans interested in farming. Ms. Ling-Browning was able to gain new experiences, network with other veterans and farm professionals, and see different farm operations. Ms. Ling-Browning was able to see a farm to table idea, and visit Schoharie fresh farmers market.

Sup. Davis stated that often ideas come up without time to grow which results in them being scrapped before ever really getting started. Sup. Davis felt that with the CCE's event at the County Fair that it should not be judged as a failure too quickly. It takes time to build the program so it is successful.

Mr. Davis stated that Kutic's would be bringing bees up on his property shortly.

Mr. Ives stated that at the recent American Dairy Association (ADA) meeting there was a push to get more milk in schools. The issue is that whole milk is 6¢ more expensive than milk currently served. A push from Ag and Markets and the USDA to increase reimbursement rates could be beneficial. Currently Mr. Ives has heard that schools are having trouble getting bids for milk that is served in schools. The Dairy Management Inc. (DMI) is starting a new internet program called "Savor" to increase the consumption of dairy products. The Dairy Promotion Advisory Board is looking to restructure its board members. Mr. Ives is fearful the new members may not have the best intent of the farmer.

Ms. Pierce asked in relation to the Chenango County food system how one would go about a feasibility study. Mr. Butler responded that you would probably want an entity like a CCE to apply for a grant so a study can be done. Ms. Pierce asked how much one would have to spend for the study. Mr. Butler stated that it depends on what firm does the study.

With no further discussion meeting adjourn at 11:26am.

The next meeting will be held on September 20, 2019 at 10:00 AM.

Minutes prepared by Corey Katusha, Planner

Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board September 20, 2019 - MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Terry Ives; Kenneth Ryan; Stanley Davis; Sup. Marge Davis;
Sup. John Lawrence; Nora Ling-Browning; Bradd Vickers; Sup. George Seneck; Ken Smith; Stephen Harris

Guests Present: Sandy Pierce

Minutes

Chairman Ives called the meeting to order at 10:03am.

Mr. Ives asked for any additions or corrections to the August 16, 2019 meeting minutes. Mr. Ryan made a motion to approve the minutes; Seconded Sup. Seneck voted all ayes, motion carried.

ADC

Mr. Smith stated that the ADC members voted and approved the idea to expand the mission of the ADC to include natural resource, such as forestry. Mr. Smith felt that because agriculture often includes timber products such as maple it is important to expand the ADC's mission to cover those areas. The Farm to Fork event at the County Fair was unsuccessful this year, Mr. Smith felt that the time devoted by his staff would be better suited elsewhere. Mr. Ives asked if it was hard to attract people towards the event. Mr. Smith stated that due to a verity of factors it was difficult to draw attendance. Mr. Smith felt that possibly sharing some space with the 4H event would be possible rather than hosting a separate Farm to Fork area. Members discussed the possibility of transportation inside the fair to help people travel to different events inside the fairgrounds.

Animal Welfare

Mr. Vickers stated that New York State Ag and Markets is looking to expand the animal welfare training. They are looking for a statewide program that would not just reach police officers but also judges presiding over cases. Mr. Vickers stated that Chenango County Farm Bureau is collaborating with CCE and other agencies to update fencing laws in New York State. The fence laws are archaic do not serve farmers well. Sup. Lawrence spoke on the animal welfare issue about a recent complaint in the southern part of the County concerning a dairy farmer. The complaint went to the dairy co-op the farmer belonged to, the farmer lost his standing with the co-op, and the situation turned violent. Sup. Lawrence felt it was important for the farming community to weigh in on complaints before action is taken. Mr. Vickers stated that along with the training program Ag and Markets is looking to develop a protocol for animal welfare complaints. Discussion followed regarding the appropriate agency to respond to animal welfare cases.

Privilege of the Floor

Ms. Ling-Browning stated that she reached out to CCE and Commerce Chenango regarding her idea for a public market. Both felt that more support from venders was needed before monetary contributions for a feasibility study. In talking with Mary Weidman regarding the fairgrounds, Ms. Weidman felt a future project could include a commercial project and possible market site. Mr. Vickers suggested going to the Oxford market to acquire support. Ms. Ling-Browning discussed the idea of a demonstration farm with members.

Mr. Harris stated that school tax bills have been sent out. Those who qualified for the STAR rebate program should be receiving checks soon; this is the last year for the STAR program. Mr. Harris discussed a proposed change to New York State Tax Code that would exempt telecom companies and its impact on County tax revenue.

Mr. Ryan stated his concerns of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) an invasive insect that attacks North American Hemlocks. Mr. Smith stated that the HWA had been in New York State for some time. For more information visit the NYSDEC website.

Sup. Davis discussed whole milk promotion in New York State and the use of hay bales in Pennsylvania as a promotion idea. Discussed the need for cellphone coverage. Sup. Davis stated that she was disappointed to hear that CCE was going to end the fair event and felt the project idea was being abandon too quickly.

Mr. Smith offered in rebuttal that the Farm to Fork event was held for four (4) years. The first year the event was well attended, but attendance has dropped in the following years. Mr. Smith felt he could no longer justify the staff and vendor time for the event. A discussion on the County Fair and the Fairs setup followed.

Sup. Seneck updated the members on the wind energy project in the Town of Guilford. Discussion on the project followed.

Mr. Vickers offered the following updates:

- Farming safety program held by the Chenango County Farm Bureau (CCFB) was well attended.
- Mr. Jordan Fleming of CCFB visited Washington D.C. and met with Congressman Brindisi to discuss farm issues
- Update on Pete Lopez of the EPA's work on waters of the U.S.
- Senator Schumer visited Kutik's Honey to discuss Federal budget cuts for honeybee studies.
- Changes to the exemption on Agricultural Buildings

Mr. Smith discussed the work CCE is doing with NYS Ag and Markets and CCFB on the animal welfare issue.

Sup. Lawrence discussed a report on the nutritional benefits of whole milk for children.

Mr. Ives discussed his visit with Congressman Brindisi, the farm show in Mohawk, FFA meeting to support FFA teachers, and ADA promotion.

Ms. Sandy Pierce discussed the importance of a market to get farm products to local consumers. Ms. Peirce stated that there are multiple groups working on the same issue and the efforts should be coordinated. Ms. Peirce felt a subcommittee should be formed to look into the issue. Discussion followed on coordination.

With no further discussion meeting adjourn at 11:28am.

The next meeting will be held on October 18, 2019 at 10:00 AM.

Minutes prepared by Corey Katusha, Planner

Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board
October 18, 2019 - MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Terry Ives; Kenneth Ryan;
Sup. John Lawrence; Nora Ling-Browning; Bradd Vickers; Sup. George Seneck; Ken Smith; Stephen Harris

Guests Present: Sandy Pierce (Norwich Farmers Market)

Minutes

Chairman Ives called the meeting to order at 10:02am.

Mr. Ives asked for any additions or corrections to the September 20, 2019 meeting minutes. Sup. Lawrence made a motion to approve the minutes; Seconded Sup. Seneck voted all ayes, motion carried.

Review of AFPB Goals

Members of the AFPB led by Chairman Ives reviewed the goals of the AFPB from the 2012 Chenango County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan (found on pages 16-20 of the plan). Main point of the review include:

- Encourage local municipalities to adopt a right to farm law
- Adding a goal for broadband and cellphone coverage development
- Website source for farm products, services, and other resources
- Proper development of renewable energy on farmland
- Establishment of a milk market
- Adding a goal to encourage outdoor recreation

Mr. Butler stated that Mr. Katusha is working on updating the Chenango County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan and will be coming forward with different sections to update starting next year.

ADC

Mr. Smith stated that the ADC members voted and approved the idea to expand the mission of the ADC to include natural resource and outdoor recreation. Mr. Smith felt there is a great opportunity to promote outdoor recreation on Chenango County.

Animal Welfare

Mr. Vickers stated that New York State Ag and Markets is looking to expand the animal welfare training. They are looking for a statewide program that would not just reach police officers but also judges presiding over cases.

Privilege of the Floor

Ms. Ling-Browning discussed an issue with a vendors meeting held on September 30th and why she did not attend. She will be attending an arm to farm event in Ithaca New York. Ms. Ling-Browning discussed a food incubator in Rhode Island called Hope & Main. (Reference The Bay Magazine October 3, 2019 "Recipe For Success". <http://thebaymagazine.com/stories/recipe-for-success.33459>)

Mr. Vickers stated that the Chenango County Farm Bureau (CFB) held its 64 annual meeting at the Silo Restaurant in Coventry with keynote speaker Richard Mayfield of NYUSDA Rural Development Agency. The event was well attended with representatives from FFA, 4-H, Congressman Brindisi's office, Assemblyman Crouch and others. The CFB has been nominated for a national award for their farm safety-training program. CFB is working to address the broadband and fence law issues.

Mr. Smith discussed a new hire for 4-H education.

Sup. Lawrence stated that the Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC) is offering a grant for cover crops (<http://www.uppersusquehanna.org/usc/2019/04/05/usc-cover-crop-implementation-project/>). The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has open job positions for students and recent graduates. Those interested should contact Eliana Covington. NRCS has grant opportunities for cropland and forestland protection. Sup. Lawrence and Mr. Smith discussed a disconnect between CBD retailers and producers.

Sup. Seneck discussed the High Bridge Wind Project in the Town of Guilford.

Mr. Ryan discussed how a landowner in Oxford was approached to have a gas well on the property turned into a pumped hydro station. Mr. Ryan felt the project was similar to hydrologic fracking and should not be allowed. Mr. Butler stated that fracking is allowed in NYS as long as it meets certain water restrictions. (For more information on pumped hydro visit <http://www.quidnetenergy.com/solution>)

Mr. Katusha shared a letter from NYS Ag and Markets regarding a solar project in the Town of Afton. The project takes place in an Ag District. Mr. Katusha asked members to have one or two ideas of possible Ag Tour locations for next year for the November meeting.

Mr. Ives stated that he was up for reelection to the Town of Guilford Board. Mr. Ives discussed the changes to dairy promotion representation in NYS.

Ms. Sandy Pierce discussed the vendors meeting on September 30th that she attended and felt the meeting was productive. Vendors agreed on tentative goals on how to improve events. The group discussed changes they would like to see in the City of Norwich regarding on street use to sell products. Ms. Pierce shared that Broome County CCE is hosting a training on November 18th and 19th on the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA). For more information visit (https://pub.cce.cornell.edu/event_registration/main/events_landing.cfm?event=2019fallpsatraining_203)

With no further discussion meeting adjourn at 11:37am.

The next meeting will be held on November 15, 2019 at 10:00 AM.

Minutes prepared by Corey Katusha, Planner

Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board
November 15, 2019 - MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Terry Ives; Kenneth Ryan;
Sup. John Lawrence; Bradd Vickers; Sup. George Seneck; Sup. Marge Davis; Stan Davis

Guests Present: Sandy Pierce (Norwich Farmers Market)

Minutes

Chairman Ives called the meeting to order at 10:06am.

Mr. Ives asked for any additions or corrections to the October 18, 2019 meeting minutes. Mr. Vickers requested adding Richard Mayfield as the keynote speaker in the Chenango County Farm Bureau 64 annual meeting. Sup. Lawrence made a motion to approve the amended minutes; Seconded Sup. Seneck; members voted all ayes, motion carried.

Draft Review of AFPB Goals

Mr. Katusha stated that he had made the changes to the AFPB goals that were discussed last meeting. Mr. Katusha asked if anyone had other changes. Mr. Ryan discussed adding soil erosion from non-reclaimed roadwork areas to goal 3.2. Mr. Ryan stated that he has seen County Hwy leave sites after roadwork with no seed or straw on areas. This allows the soil to erode and travel to streams and rivers when it rains. Sup. Lawrence stated that Soil and Water had purchased a hydro seed machine. Municipalities can contact Soil and Water for a Soil and Water staff person to use the machine to reclaim those areas. Sup. Seneck stated he would bring that to the attention of the Public Works Committee who oversees County Hwy to make them aware. Ms. Pierce stated that on goal 1.5 change to continue to provide systems for farmers markets for food stamps. Mr. Ives suggested sending the changes to Ag Buildings & Grounds Committee to make them aware of the changes to the AFPB's goals.

Sup. Seneck made a motion to send the amended AFPB goals to the Ag Buildings & Grounds Committee; Seconded by Mr. Vickers. Members voted all ayes, motion carried. Mr. Ken Smith and Ms. Nora Ling-Browning were absent.

Ag Tour Locations

Mr. Katusha stated that he was looking for more locations for the 2020 Ag Tour. Mr. Katusha has contacted Rich Taber of CCE who helped set up a location to visit an Amish farm in Guilford area. Mr. Butler had contacted a hemp farm as a possible destination located in Afton/Bainbridge area. Mr. Katusha was looking for one other possible location close to those sites. Sup. Lawrence suggested Fantasy Fruit Farm in the Afton area. Mr. Butler suggested Marshman Farms in Oxford as another location. Mr. Katusha would contact the possible sites and report back with more information.

ADC

Mr. Smith was attending a meeting at the time and was unavailable for an update. Mr. Katusha stated that last ADC meeting a quorum was not present so no official business could be conducted. The group present discussed changes to the ADC's bylaws.

Animal Welfare

Mr. Vickers stated that he would not have any new updates until January 2020.

Market Manager Certification Program Update

Ms. Pierce stated that she would be attending the Farmers Market Manager Professional Certification Program (FFM Pro) via webinar. Ms. Pierce felt that now that the training was available online it was easier for those interested to become certified. Those interested can find more information via <http://www.nyfarmersmarket.com/fmm-pro-manual/> link. Ms. Pierce stated that Broome County CCE is having a Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) training next week that she will be attending. A discussion followed on FSMA's impact to farmers market and compliance standards.

Privilege of the Floor

Mr. Ives discussed the recent Farm Credit East event he attended. During the meeting presentation different farm businesses were shared. One made bottled water from the reverse osmoses process of developing maple syrup. For more information visit <https://www.farmcrediteast.com/TodaysHarvest> . Mr. Ives has an American Dairy Association meeting where he is sure Dean Foods filing for bankruptcy will be discussed. Discussion followed regarding the impact of Dean Foods decision on the milk market.

Sup. Davis discussed a meeting for New York State Grange that she and her husband attended. During the meeting, the New York Thursday's school lunch program was discussed along with New York Grown and Certified programs. Commissioner of Ag and Markets Richard Ball spoke about hemp. In the recent Farmshine Magazine a petition to get whole milk in schools was available. Farmshine is looking for signatures by January.

Sup. Lawrence stated that the Soil and Water meeting for November was cancelled and did not have an update.

Mr. Vickers stated that the New York Farm Bureau would host its annual meeting in December at the Doubletree by Hilton located in Binghamton. Mr. Joe Cornell is the recipient of the Ag Promote Award for his efforts in the field. The farm safety program put on by CCFM won a national award to be given in Texas. Current regulation is making it difficult for the cider industry to process and transport the product. Mr. Vickers is hopeful legislative changes are coming. Veteran's suicide numbers are high and Mr. Vickers felt more support is needed for veterans who battle depression and other disorders.

Sup. Seneck stated that the Town of Guilford would be holding a public hearing on its Right to Farm Law. Mr. Ives felt that any limits on hours of operation should be removed.

Mr. Ryan stated that thanks to help from Farm Service Agency his field that was damaged in the floods last summer have been repaired.

Mr. Smith discussed a new hire for 4-H education.

Sup. Lawrence stated that the Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC) is offering a grant for cover crops (<http://www.uppersusquehanna.org/usc/2019/04/05/usc-cover-crop-implementation-project/>). The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) has open job positions for students and recent graduates. Those interested should contact Eliana Covington. NRCS has grant opportunities for cropland and forestland protection. Sup. Lawrence and Mr. Smith discussed the apparent disconnect between CBD retailers and producers.

Sup. Seneck discussed the High Bridge Wind Project in the Town of Guilford.

Mr. Ryan discussed how a landowner in Oxford was approached to have a gas well on the property turned into a pumped hydro station. Mr. Ryan felt the project was similar to hydrologic fracking and should not be allowed. Mr. Butler stated that fracking is allowed in NYS as long as it meets certain water restrictions. (For more information on pumped hydro visit <http://www.quidnetenergy.com/solution>)

The December 20, 2019 meeting is cancelled

With no further discussion meeting adjourn at 11:00am.

The next meeting will be held on January 17, 2020 at 10:00 AM.

Minutes prepared by Corey Katusha, Planner