

## **Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board**

### **May 20th, 2022– MEETING MINUTES**

**Members Present: Terry Ives, Stan Davis, Sup. Marge Davis, Sup. John Lawrence, Brad Vickers, Ken Smith, Steve Harris, George Seneck, Shane Butler, Allison Yacano, and Matt Gladstone**

**Mr. Ives** called the meeting to order at 10:34

**Mr. Gladstone** informed the group that he received an email about the minutes and was asked to take out one of the responses after their comment.

**Mr. Ives** stated he's fine with that and asked if there was a motion to accept the minutes with the change of the comment.

**Mr. Smith** asked about how the minutes are taken.

**Mr. Gladstone** stated that I listen to the zoom recording and take out the big picture things that are said so we have them in writing so we can use them to continue conversations or look back where we left off on things for future meetings.

**Mr. Smith** motioned to approve the minutes

**Mr. Butler** seconds the motion all approved, passed.

#### **Ag tour**

**Mr. Gladstone** informed the group that we currently have 4 people signed up for the ag tour and the tour bus has been approved and paid for. The letters to legislators have been sent out so now we are just waiting to hear back. Mr. Gladstone also reached out to cascuns about sponsoring the lunch but hasn't heard back yet. If they don't, we can go to one of the local parks or cook park owned by the county.

#### **Ag District.**

**Mr. Gladstone** stated that everything is going pretty well regarding district 2a, we have received between 170-180 of the inclusion worksheets back so far out of the 900 sent out.

#### **Scoping document.**

**Mr. Ives** asked if there was any further discussion regarding the scoping document.

**Mr. Vickers** stated he thinks that the plan is a long shot and doesn't think the power supply or infrastructure could handle a plan like this.

**Mr. Harris** informed everyone about an article that he read talking about EPA requirements regarding the plan and how soon the state wants to see things converted over to electric.

**Privilege of the floor.**

**Mr. Butler** stated one thing to think about is some trainings we are having on renewable energy and how it relates in your comprehensive plan. Our next training is on renewable energy battery storage and how it can relate to your plan.

**Mr. Lawrence** asked the question based on those training which he stated do we have any understanding of the ramifications if the farming community can not meet some of the deadlines of these renewable laws? Also, for soil and waters update NRCS Chenango county had 39 applicants for equip. Mr. Lawrence also informed the group that the Envirothon went well but there was only one team from Greene.

**Mr. Vickers** stated that there are some grants available for transition to organics. The 30<sup>th</sup> is Memorial Day and there us a monument dedication for purple heart veterans. Mr. Vickers stated that we are all aware of the tractor issue at Norwich school. The police looked into things and the kid was in his rights. but it opens the door for FFA to push for ag programs in the schools.

**Mr. Smith** stated that on the topic of ag in schools, Craig Brown got contracts with Greene, Oxford, Sherburne, and Otselic Valley to move forward with 4H and ag in schools.

**Mr. Harris** stated that we have a 5mgw solar farm project with battery storage here in the town of Norwich so we will see how that works in the winter.

**Mrs. Davis** stated that she is continuing to work on Dairy Day for June 18th at the fairgrounds. There will be no parade this year, but instead people can come up to the farm equipment instead of the parade driving by. There will also be the pedal tractor pull. The Dairy Ambassador program coronation is on 6/5/2022 and starts at 1pm. It is also open to the public.

**Mr. Ives** stated that Milk prices are good, but the number of cows is down. He stated that he got the fertilizer shock when he bought it. There is a new CEO for the New England dairy Association, and they want to make every drop count.

**Mr. Seneck** stated I think there is going to be a lot of challenges with inflation and concerned with tax rates.

**Mrs. Yacano** informed the group about the planning department teaching some of the students at oxford school about composting and recycling and how we may look into doing this at some other schools.

**Mr. Vickers** motion to adjourn

**Mr. Harris** seconded the motion, carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:31



## **Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board**

**June 17<sup>th</sup> , 2022– MEETING MINUTES**

**Members Present: Terry Ives, Stan Davis, Sup. Marge Davis, Sup. John Lawrence, Brad Vickers, Ken Smith, Ken Ryan, Steve Harris, Shane Butler, and Matt Gladstone**

**Mr. Ives** called the meeting to order at 10:31

**Mr. Ives** asked if there was a motion to accept the minutes?

**Mr. Smith** Made the motion to accept the minutes.

**Mr. Butler** seconded the motion passed.

### **Ag tour**

**Mr. Gladstone** informed the group that we found out that there was going to be an issue with one of the ag tour sites that is going to cause them to not be apart of the tour this year.

**Mr. Butler** stated at the IDA meeting he was informed that cascuns is going to be closing its Greene Ny sites.

**Mr. Gladstone** stated that we decided that we need to figure out another site as soon as possible and we found freedom farms. Which is a beef farm that was opened by one of the previous performance coaches of the New York Yankees. Mr. Gladstone stated that I reached out to them via email and informed them about the tour and now I'm just waiting on a response. I plan to give them till end of next week at the latest to decide with the tour date approaching.

**Mr. Gladstone** also informed the group that RSVPs have started to come in from legislators' senators and assemblymen and they are being added to tour list of attendees.

**Mr. Ives** asked about the lunch part of the tour.

**Mr. Gladstone** informed the group that I asked freedom farms if we could do it there but if not, we will do it at cook park pending if the county thinks the bus can get in and out of there easy enough.

Ag district updates.

**Mr. Gladstone** stated that at last months meeting we had 170 to 180 work sheets in and now we are a little over 200 sheets now and we are getting calls on them every day. We are still in the inclusion period, so I have to just keep putting the sheets into the excel file and wait for this inclusion period to be over. Then I will start the mapping and district report.

**Mr. Butler** added that at the July meeting this committee will approve the district and then in August it will be approved by Ag Buildings and Grounds and finally in September it will go to the board to be approved.

## **Privilege of the floor.**

**Mr. Smith** tomorrow is dairy day, so we are heading over to set up and get ready for that. Thanks to marge and terry for everything and hope to see you all there.

**Mrs. Davis** So it takes a bit of explaining for the reverse parade because some people thought that the parade went backwards. The parade participation has remained about the same, but the viewing of the parade is down. Covid caused no dairy day in 2020 and then last year we pulled dairy day together in 3 weeks and the parade was good but not many people to watch it. So that's why this year we decided to do the reverse parade. We are calling it a reverse parade because of the participants moving the viewers will be able to walk and get up close to the parade vehicles. We have a lady coming with birds of prey, a milk giveaway, and the coloring contest with about 300 pictures that will be on display. Also, a kids tractor pulls and some Texas long horns coming.

**Mr. Davis** The fair is coming along, and we have been pouring concrete in the base of the grandstands so hoping to get that opened up in time.

**Mr. Ryan** Bainbridge Guilford just had their first FFA awards ceremony. They also had a tractor drive in day. Also, on Monday night at 6 on the farm channel goes over covid all over the world. What's going on what things are looking like and so on. Last the president of the United Nations says we are going to have a worldwide food shortage this fall many areas of the world are not having a good crop this summer.

**Mr. Butler** Stated that we are having a training on battery storage for solar on June 28<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm which is though NYSERDA Also on June 4<sup>th</sup> we had a river clean up through the Chenango County Environmental Management Council and the Chenango Greenway. We cleaned the river from behind Aldi's to the end of hogback trail. Last time one of these clean up happened they cleaned up 955 pounds of trash with 50 volunteers. We had about 25 volunteers and just on the Norwich stretch of the river we cleaned up 1020 pounds and at the roger's site the collected 250 pounds.

**Mr. Gladstone** added that the greenway has been doing this for years but not on this scale and we appreciate the counties and volunteers help.

**Mr. Vickers** stated at the last farm bureau conference call meeting we discussed the negative legislation that is affecting agriculture. Second the 10 new anti-gun legislation that they are trying to put into place. Also farm bureau is doing some things to promote farm markets and farm stands. They put the info in their newsletter which goes out to about 30,000 people. Finally, there is a new farm market in Greene Ny.

**Mr. Vickers** motion to adjourn

**Mrs. Davis** second that motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:28



## **Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board**

### **July 15<sup>th</sup> , 2022– MEETING MINUTES**

**Members Present: Terry Ives, Stan Davis, Sup. Marge Davis, Sup. John Lawrence, Brad Vickers, Ken Ryan, Steve Harris, Shane Butler, and Matt Gladstone**

**Mr. Ives** called the meeting to order at 10:30

**Mr. Ives** asked if there was a motion to accept the minutes?

**Mr. Lawrence** Made the motion to accept the minutes.

**Mr. Harris** seconded the motion passed.

#### **AG Tour.**

**Mr. Gladstone** stated that the ag tour is all set to go. The stop list was sent out to the bus company. Later today we are going to call the sub shop to order the food for the lunch at cook park. Julie Gates was contacted about using cook park and we are all good to go there as well. I provided you all with a flyer of the tour stops and that's about all I have for the tour I think we are all set to go.

**Mr. Ives** asked about the legislators and how many are coming?

**Mr. Gladstone** stated not a whole lot and that I was not impressed with how few responded. Some of them did respond and let me know that they had something going on, but I think the turnout could have been better.

**Mr. Gladstone** stated which legislators we do have coming after being asked by the group.

**Mr. Lawrence** Asked if we could get a list of all the legislators that were invited to the tour.

**Mr. Gladstone** stated that I will go back to our mailing list and get that printed out for the next meeting.

**Mr. Butler** stated that we usually send it to everyone who is on the NYS senate and assembly agriculture committee.

**Mr. Gladstone** informed the group that I went on the states website and pulled all the information of those people on those committees and sent them an invite to the tour.

#### **Ag District Update.**

**Mr. Butler** stated to the group that we were supposed to have the report done for today's meeting but because of the way the dates lined up between the deadline for returning the inclusion worksheets and today's meeting did not give us enough time to go through the information and get everything into the report. Also, the way the ag buildings and grounds meeting and ag and farm protection board meeting didn't lineup in our favor.

**Mr. Gladstone** then stated that we had a total of 261 responses back from the inclusion sheets. There was about 900 sent out in total. With the 14-day window of getting these all looked over and the data sorted it just was not enough time before today's meeting.

**Mr. Butler** stated that one thing about the review process is you have to rely on the meeting dates and dates of when the inclusion periods are and only getting 180 days to get the review done it makes it a bit difficult. There is 28 days between now and the next ag buildings and grounds meeting so we would like to use that time to make sure the report is accurate, and we have properly looked everything over.

**Motion to bring it to ag buildings and grounds was by Mr. Harris**

**Second by Mr. Ryan – passed.**

**Privilege of the floor**

**Mr. Harris** things are slow right now but there's a homeowner rebate check being sent out. I'm not sure when you will get it or when it will see it, but they are being sent out. There should be only one check and I think they are starting to roll out today.

**Mr. Davis** stated that the fair is coming up it's the 175 years of the fair. Most of the same things back again this year. We are trying to get more entertainment but it's getting pretty expensive.

**Miss Davis** stated that sense last meeting we had dairy day. It was cold but it went well. We had a wrap up meeting this week and the reverse parade was more of a mini parade. But there will be a dairy day in 2023.

**Mr. Seneck** stated that he was approached to do something for the 175<sup>th</sup> year of the fair but it would have to be before a certain time because of other obligations that day with the town. Also, one thing that has come up is the Amish community and the use of equipment on the roads and sometimes being driven by kids at a young age which is a concern.

Discussion continued about the use of smv signs on non-farming vehicles and the problems that it can cause. Also, the fact that it is not being enforced by local police.

**Mr. Ryan** The county has a good job putting up signs. Part of the problem is the drivers that will pass a farm tractor on a double line and people not paying attention. Also, people do not appreciate agriculture enough and we are going to learn to appreciate it more this fall when food prices go up or other things are not on the shelves.

**Mr. Vickers** the farm bureau is going a donation to the fair for the 175<sup>th</sup> year for banners and displays. Joe Angelino was on a conference call talking about gun laws coming down from Albany. Agricultural easements, we haven't been able to find out if there is any for farms here in Chenango County. We are also working with ken to get FFA into Norwich schools.

**Mr. Butler** explained that ag and markets do not believe there are any more land trusts in our area because of the requirements of preserving that land are forever and people don't want to take them on anymore because the requirements are too much. It is an unfunded mandate so no one wants to do them anymore.



Discussion continued about what to do about the open land and keeping it agriculture and assessing the land and how that all works.

**Mr. Vickers** motion to adjourn

**Mr. Lawrence** second that motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:28

The next meeting will be on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 10:30 AM

## **Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board**

### **August 19<sup>th</sup> , 2022– MEETING MINUTES**

**Members Present: Terry Ives, Stan Davis, Sup. Marge Davis, , Brad Vickers, Ken Ryan, Ken Smith Steve Harris, George Seneck, Shane Butler, and Matt Gladstone**

**Mr. Ives** called the meeting to order at 10:34

**Mr. Ives** asked if there was a motion to accept the minutes?

**Mr. Butler** stated that even though the minutes say June they are for July.

**Mrs. Davis** Made the motion to accept the minutes with the correction of the date.

**Mr. Ryan** seconded the motion, passed.

#### **AG Tour Recap.**

**Mr. Gladstone** stated that I added the ag tour recap to the agenda because I wasn't sure if there was anything about the tour or that happened on the tour that anyone wanted to bring up and discuss.

**Mr. Ryan** asked about the number of delegates that responded and or attended the event. And we were satisfied with the response and attendance.

**Mr. Gladstone** stated that I was dissatisfied with the response and attendance . Mr. Lawrence asked last meeting if I would provide a list of the delegates that were invited to the tour which I have brought with me today if anyone would like one.

**Mr. Ives** asked who all came that were elected?

**Mr. Gladstone.** Stated Joe Angelino, Peter Oleracker, Dona Lupardo and 5 town supervisors.

**Mr. Vickers** stated that he talked to Mrs. Lupardo, and she is willing to help next time to get more legislators to attend and aware of the event.

**Mr. Smith** stated that he thought this was the best farm tour that we have had in terms of the discussion that was had at the sites. The conversations Mrs. Lupardo had with the Hoffmans was really helpful being that she is one of the most powerful people in the state regarding agriculture.

#### **Ag District.**

**Mr. Gladstone** Stated that the ag district is done and ready to go. If you all would look at pages 5 and 6 you can see the steps that were taken to review the district. Last time the district was reviewed there was 71%of the land in the district was agriculturally viable this time it has decreased to 66.4 % viable.

**Mr. Ives** asked if solar and wind farming counts as viable?

**Mr. Butler** stated that it depends. Our worksheet does not ask that question but if you have a solar farm that has sheep under the panels it would still be used for agricultural purposes. so, we would have a hard time saying that is not viable.

**Mr. Gladstone** stated that next time we do a district update is 2024 and we will probably be updating the inclusion worksheets so ask questions about solar and wind and if it is dual purpose. So, we went to ag buildings and grounds and got a resolution to continue ag district 2a and classify it as a negative declaration as a type two action.

**Mr. Butler** stated that because of the way the dates of the district review lined up with the dates for the meetings we had to take it to ag buildings and grounds before coming to ag and farm. Normally it would come here first but we had to do it this way because of the way the dates lined up.

**Mr. Ives** asked for a motion to approve the review of ag district 2a.

**Mr. Davis** motioned to approve ag district 2a.

**Mr. Ryan** seconded the motion all ayes passed.

**Mr. Butler** stated the public hearing for the review will be at the board meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Mr. Ives** stated that there was an article in the paper about solar so let's talk about that. Mr. Ives then said it bothers me that prime ag land is being turned into solar farms. I have a problem with that because where are we going to grow our food. How do we convince these towns that zoning is the answer to this problem?

**Mr. Ryan** stated that this is part of our mission and a part of the ag plan that we wrote 2 years ago.

**Mr. Butler** stated that we have a training next week and we will be talking about comprehensive plans and issues like this.

**Mr. Ives** stated maybe it could be an added check box for the assessor to look at the land and say its ag and should be kept as ag land.

### **Privilege of the floor**

**Mr. Vickers** stated that he attended the ag summit held by NY farm Bureau which included a lot of legislators to talk about future of agriculture, workforce development, climate change, farm communications, and how to get more agriculture into the schools. Mrs. Lupardo was there, and she is willing to help out getting more legislators involved in agriculture. we are also discussing what is going on with solar and what else is to come.

**Mr. Ryan**, I head on the news food and drug is carrying a lawsuit the legality of calling plant-based milk milk. I was wondering if anyone else have heard about it.

**Mr. Davis** stated that the fair went well, attendance was down the first few days but was up the following days. There was a good day at the tractor pull and another good day at the demo derby.

**Mr. Smith** The farm to fork was a limited success we didn't have the numbers we were hoping for. But the numbers were down but it did go well, and the conversations were good regarding the farm to fork. We do need to work on our outreach for next year's farm to fork.

**Mr. Ives**, I attended the ADA northeast dairy board meeting and as for promotion they are reaching the consumer through retail by moving dairy products around in the store by cross merchandising. Also, school meals. There is a lot of dairy is being put into school meals. There is a new CEO for the board and that's all I have about that.

Visitors.

**Mrs. Pierce** asked if FPIG an ACEP are still in existence correct.

**Mr. Butler** stated to my knowledge they are still in existence.

**Mrs. Pierce** as you all know our farm was the first farm in the county to have a farmland easement put on it. Sense then there is another farm that has one put on it. As you all know back in 2017, we came to the county to see if the county could do this and not just the land trust. Now you have a new county attorney and see if the land trust would come to the meeting and if we can get these people talking. If we could get these people together, we could get the conversation started again and see what this could look like in Chenango County.

**Mr. Vickers** stated that farmland trust says there is no money available, and it can't be done.

**Mrs. Pierce** stated that it can be done. Also are either of these done or are they still going.

**Mr. Butler** stated that I think they are still around, but I haven't seen any type of funding around and a lot of the trusts are not doing this anymore because they are losing money by doing it.

**Ms. Pierce**, we have to do something to save Chenango farmland. It's a money issue. We are talking to the land trust about partnering with them, but I would like us to bring the Chenango land trust back to this meeting to discuss the topic.

**Mr. Ives** asked Mrs. pierce who is on the Chenango land trust?

**Mrs. Pierce** they were at the committee back in 2017 but I cannot remember their names. They are interested in protecting farmland so I would like them to come to us and get them involved. I will also let you know what their names are later on.

**Mrs. Pierce** also asked about the training at the end of the month.

**Mr. Butler** said we will provide you with the information.

**Mr. Vickers** motion to adjourn

**Mr. Ryan** second that motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:29 The next meeting will be on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 10:30 AM

