



Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board



Summary of Meeting Minutes

Date: 1/20/2023

Large Conference Room, County Office Building

<u>Board Members Present</u>		<u>Staff Present</u>	<u>Guest(s) Present</u>	<u>Board Member(s) Absent</u>
Terry Ives Ken Ryan John Lawrence, Sup. Nora Ling-Browning	Ken Smith Steve Harris Rich Taber Shane Butler	Matt Gladstone	Rob Declue	Marge Davis, Sup Stan Davis Bradd Vickers

Mr. Ives called the meeting to order at 10:32

1. Old Business

Mr. Ives asked if there were any comments or corrections for the _2023 Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Harris stated there is one small correction. The 1.1 million should be 1.4 million.

Mr. Lawrence moved, seconded by Mr. Butler to approve the November 2022 minutes of the Chenango County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board. All members voted ayes; motion carried.

2. New Business

Solar discussion and talk about webinar.

Mr. Ives began the conversation by talking about the solar webinar that he attended. Discussion continued about permitting and when the state would take over the which is 20 meg or bigger projects. Mr. butler was asked how to combat this problem at the municipal level? He stated that it needs to be in the comprehensive plan and have a land use regulation. Discussion then went to IDA



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and how they should be regulating the solar pilots. Mr. Harris stated that he went to the last IDA meeting to inform them on solar pilots and what they can do to change how the IDA is doing the pilots in Chenango County.

Ag tour discussion

Mr. Gladstone stated that we need to get thinking about the ag tour and where we would like to go this year.

The group put out some ideas like Marshmans, Southdown Dairy, Hidden Springs, Wilcox Maple syrup and Earl B. Clark.

Mr. Gladstone stated that he would send out a list of a few places in the next few weeks through email to be voted on so we can start asking if places are interested in being a part of the tour.

3. Privilege of the Floor – Members

Mr. Lawrence There is a new funding source for ag plans which is a fast stream of money. Also farm service crop coverage insurance is going well. Pandemic relief payment for 15% under 2018 income for any farm. Local disaster loss funding source, funding for local disasters. Soil and Water is having the tree and shrub sale and also fish sales this year too.

Mr. Harris town and county tax bills went out. County wide we did not exceed 2% tax cap. Post cards also went out to notify people over the age of 65 that they may be eligible for a tax exemption and they need to contact the local assessor.

Mr. Smith. Should we get the new head of boces to come in and to talk to us about agriculture in the school and in Chenango county? (yes)

Mr. Seneck. There is a 10% tax exemption for firefighters, but the details of the exemption are unclear and how is it managed.

Mr. Butler. Remember to keep thinking about locations for the ag tour.

4. Privilege of the Floor – Guests



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5. Meeting Adjournment 12:02pm

NEXT MEETING: The Chenango County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board will meet on at 9:00 a.m.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Matt Gladstone, Planner.



Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board



Summary of Meeting Minutes

Date: 2/17/2023

Large Conference Room, County Office Building

<u>Board Members Present</u>		<u>Staff Present</u>	<u>Guest(s) Present</u>	<u>Board Member(s) Absent</u>
Terry Ives Stan Davis Marge Davis, Sup. Ken Ryan John Lawrence, Sup.	Rich Taber Shane Butler	Matt Gladstone	George Seneck Rob DeClue Sandy Pierce	Bradd Vickers Nora Ling-Browning Steve Harris Ken Smith

Mr. Ives called the meeting to order at

1. Old Business

Mr. Ives asked if there were any comments or corrections for the January 2023 Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board Meeting Minutes. Mr. Taber indicated he in fact was not at the 20 January 2023 meeting so his name should be removed from the attendance list at the top.

_ moved, seconded by _ to approve the _ 2023 minutes of the Chenango County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board as corrected. All members voted ayes; the motion carried.

Reorganization

Mr. Gladstone stated that I would like a motion to become the temporary chairperson.

Mr. Lawrence makes to motion.

Seconded By Mr. Ives.

Mr. Gladstone Stated are there any nominations for a chairperson for the ag and farm protection board.



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Mr. Ryan nominates Mr. Ives for chairperson.

Mr. Butler seconds the nomination, and all ayes passed.

Mr. Ives asked for a nomination for a vice chair?

Mr. Ryan Nominates Mr. Davis for vice chair.

Mr. Butler seconds the nomination, and all ayes passed.

Mr. Ives asked for a nomination for secretary.

Mr. Butler nominates Mr. Ryan

Mrs. Davis seconds the motion, and all ayes passed.

Mr. Ives asked for a motion to accept the minutes from the January meeting.

Mr. Ryan made the motion to accept the minutes.

Mr. Lawrence seconds the motion. All ayes passed.

2. New Business

Solar.

The discussion of solar was on the table again starting with the concern over prime ag land being used for solar development and what do we do about that?

Mr. Butler informed the group about training in renewable energy laws and training. He also stated that towns need to update their comprehensive plans to address renewable energy development.

The group then discussed how to add information on renewable energy that also touches agriculture and not using prime ag land.

Ag tour

Mr. Gladstone gave an update on where we are regarding the ag tour. He stated that we have reached out to RTG Ranch, Marshman's Farm, and Hidden Springs Brewhouse as a spot for lunch.

Mr. Gladstone also stated that we hope to have the tour on July 21st if that date works for the facilities. We have not had anyone commit yet, but we will reach out to them again and see what happens.

3. Privilege of the Floor – Members



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Mr. Davis- We have ag society membership tickets for sale if anyone is interested. Also, I received a magazine from Morrisville that had an article about Sheila Marshman in it which was very interesting.

Mrs. Davis – Dairy Day plans are underway, and it will be on June 17th at the fairgrounds. We talked a lot about the processing and there is now a meat processing place in Morris which is much closer than the others.

Mr. Lawrence - First thing is there is a retirement party for Ken Smith at the County Club on March 22 from 3-6 pm. The party is RSVP. The second thing is there is a grant through Soil and Water for watershed management projects, open space/ outdoor recreation projects, and emergency management natural hazard resiliency. Up to \$15,000 with a 25% match. If interested contact Jennifer Kelly at Soil and Water.

Mr. Ryan- There is a possible threat from the government on managing streams, but it hasn't happened yet, but it might.

Mr. Ive's Tuesday night is the state dairy promotion for the ambassador in Syracuse. The ADA annual meeting is on March 16th and 17th which means if I go I will not be at our next meeting. Next week I will be taking a vacation for a few weeks for surgery.

Mr. Taber – In late January commerce Chenango sponsored a booth for us at the state sportsman's show. It was the first time we had been there since 2020 and we put out a bunch of information about outdoor opportunities in Chenango County. It's interesting because there's a whole group of people out there who know where Pharsalia is because they have camps out there, but they have no clue where Chenango County is on a map. It was well worth it and right now the board of directors at CCE is interviewing applicants for the open director's position.

Mr. Butler – there is a yogurt company expanding in the village of Greene. Our office has been asked by commerce to help them out with grant opportunities. They are called coco June which is coconut-based yogurt. They are using the Evens old facility in Greene. They have been in operation since 2019 and they have already spent over 4 million at the new facility. It sounds like they want to move their headquarters from NYC to here so it could be a good opportunity.

Mrs. Peirce see attached document.



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Mr. Seneck. Nothing new but has anyone heard about the local law for firefighter reduction in taxes? Steve Harris spoke about it last month, but we were wondering what other towns are doing regarding it.

Mr. Butler stated we are waiting for more guidance.

Mrs. Pierce inquired about the status of the Susquehanna River. Pointed out severe streambank erosion of Canasawacta Creek by her farm & desire for durable protection.

Mr. DeClue explained main water quality monitoring occurs at a station in Towanda, PA as this is near the confluence of both the Susquehanna & Chemung Rivers portion from NYS. He reviewed the recent trends of primary pollutants (sediment, phosphorous, nitrogen).

4. Meeting Adjournment

11:37 meeting adjured.

NEXT MEETING: The Chenango County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board will meet on at 9:00 a.m.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Matt Gladstone, Planner.



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Summary of Meeting Minutes

Date: April 21, 2023

Large Conference Room, County Office Building

<u>Board Members Present</u>		<u>Staff Present</u>	<u>Guest(s) Present</u>	<u>Board Member(s) Absent</u>
Terry Ives Stan Davis Marge Davis, Sup. John Lawrence, Sup.	Shane Butler Bradd Vickers	Matt Gladstone	George Seneck Rob DeClue	Nora Ling-Browning Rich Taber Steve Harris Ken Smith Ken Ryan

Mr. Ives called the meeting to order at 10:32 am

1. Old Business

Mr. Ives asked if there were any comments or corrections for the February 2023 Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Lawrence moved, seconded by Mr. Vickers to approve the February 2023 minutes of the Chenango County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board. All members voted ayes; the motion carried.

2. New Business

Solar

Mr. Ives asked the Board where we are regarding the solar discussion. We are losing farmland left and right to solar and young people don't want to farm so they see it as a better option to sell the land to solar than to use it for farming. Also, we received an email from Mrs. Pierce being concerned about solar and asking if there is a land trust.

Mr. Gladstone stated that as far as he knows there was one Land Trust but does not know how active it is and who is on it.

Mr. Vickers stated he thinks we need to push the county or someone to provide training for the townships. The knowledge just isn't out there, and no one knows



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what to do or how to go about it. Also, who is going to deal with the panels and the other parts once they are no longer able to generate power?

Mr. Ives stated that the company is responsible for the removal and decommissioning of the solar field.

Mr. Seneck stated there was training for solar and he took it, but that was several years ago.

Mr. Gladstone stated the Planning Department holds trainings with the New York State Department of State for topics such as site plan review, zoning, and solar. But the problem is that many officials do not attend these training sessions.

Mr. Seneck stated that enforcement of this is the townships, they need to pass an ordinance and the county will not enforce a town law. Some of the townships do not have the personnel for these kinds of laws.

Mr. Ives stated that one of the problems is that the money that the solar companies are offering is more per acre than you can make in crops. Also, once solar is on ag land it should not be assessed as ag land, it needs a higher assessment. They should also tax solar for what they are generating.

More discussion was held about solar and different things the town or solar companies must do for the process of putting up solar fields.

Ag Tour

Mr. Gladstone stated that they have finalized the three locations for the Ag Tour. These include Marshman Farm in Oxford, Purple Haze Horse Adoption Program in Oxford, and Hidden Springs Brewhouse in Norwich. Also, they have also talked with Mr. Kellogg about coming to talk to the tour about cannabis in NYS and the rules and regulations regarding farming it and the whole process.

Mr. Lawrence, when you talk to Mrs. Kelly ask for a list of legislators that may not have been on the ag committee to see if they will take advantage of the ag tour.

3. Privilege of the Floor – Members

Mr. Vickers stated the farm bill listening session was held in Broome County and Marc Molinaro was there and it was well attended. Besides ag issues, they also talked about nutrition issues and the SNAP program which has helped many people right here in Chenango County. Mr. Vickers stated they also addressed cell phone assistance. We are locked in cell towers, and we are stuck here with very little cell



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service. Also, we may be losing our WIC program which has helped many new mothers.

Mr. Lawrence stated that the NRCS 8 contracts were given out in Chenango County. There is a climate-resilient grant that if you have forest land, you are eligible for this grant. The USDA has a 10\$ per acre grant for farms and it includes land with cover crops for carbon sequestration. The trees for the trip program received 500 trees and shrubs to give out so see Soil and Water about that.

Mrs. Davis stated that Fishing Heritage Day in South Otselic is May 20th and Dairy Day is June 17th and they are working on planning the events. They are still trying to cover all the ice cream shops in the county for the dairy promotion kids to sponsor an ice cream trail. It will kick off at Dairy Day and go until the County Fair in August. Participants can go to each of the ice cream shops and get a stamp and try to complete the tour then they are eligible to win a prize at the Fair in August. Mrs. Davis also stated Marc Molinaro is on the Ag Committee at the Congressional level and maybe this group should try and get him to visit and talk to farmers and talk about agriculture in general.

Mr. Ives stated that conservation programs are in the farm bill, and he just got my crop insurance, and it costs him over \$4,000 for only 160 acres of corn. This morning he got an email from the American Dairy Association which stated Western NY is having issues with animal rights people coming onto farms and taking pictures and taking the animals.

Mr. Vickers stated that we are having a case of this right here in Chenango with a farm that was on the tour last year. We have received calls about dead animals being found on the farm. It doesn't seem like much is being done about it yet.

Mr. Gladstone stated that we have the River Clean Up tomorrow. We are hoping for as many volunteers if not more than last year. We will be cleaning up the City of Norwich, part of the river, and a spot in Sherburne.

Mr. Butler stated that Airport Day is coming up and to make sure you get a flyer. There will be a lot of cool stuff.

4. Privilege of the Floor – Guests

Mr. Seneck, we met with the officials that are purchasing the Highbridge wind farm and it looks like 2024 before they get started and the cost of the project is going up.

Mr. DeClue stated that he drove down Follett Hill Road in North Norwich a few weeks ago. There were multiple cars parked on the side of the road and they were a



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field biologist conducting a bird study for the potential solar array in North Norwich.

5. Meeting Adjournment

Mr. Vickers motioned to adjourn the meeting at 11:18 a.m., Mr. Lawrence seconded the motion. All remaining members voted ayes. Adjourned.

NEXT MEETING: The Chenango County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board will meet on Friday, May 19th at 10:30 a.m.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Matt Gladstone, Planner.



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Summary of Meeting Minutes

Date: May 19, 2023

Large Conference Room, County Office Building

<u>Board Members Present</u>		<u>Staff Present</u>	<u>Guest(s) Present</u>	<u>Board Member(s) Absent</u>
Terry Ives Stan Davis Marge Davis, Sup.	Bradd Vickers John Lawrence, Sup. Steve Harris	Allison Yacano	George Seneck	Shane Butler Nora Ling-Browning Craig Brown

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

1. Old Business

Mr. Ives asked if there were any comments or corrections for the April 21, 2023, Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Lawrence moved, seconded by Mr. Vickers to approve the April 21, 2023, minutes of the Chenango County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board. All members voted ayes; motion carried.

2. New Business

Solar

Mr. Vickers stressed the importance of providing training for Town Boards and Town Supervisors regarding solar regulations. Mr. Vickers stated that the Farm Bureau get training and education from an attorney on leasing regulations for solar arrays and asked if this could be a possibility for the local municipalities. Mr. Harris noted that training is important, but more times than not, towns do not know anything is happening until the lease is near completion. The problem he sees is that for any projects greater than 20mw, companies do not need approval from town and that the state regulatory system supersedes it. Mr. Ives added that Guilford was able to pass a Renewable Energy System Law before the wind project began. The company at the time obeyed this law as a courtesy, but since the project is 100mw, legally they would not have to. Mr. Harris added that he thinks it is important to have a Community Host Agreement for large-scale solar and wind



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projects. Mr. Lawrence asked for the smaller Community Solar projects smaller than 20mw, what rules and regulations do they have to follow? Mr. Harris noted that they must follow the town regulations. Mr. Ives stated that he attended the ribbon cutting for a wind project in Lowville. This project is being run by the same company that is working in Guilford. He believes they are doing a very good job on the project and the site appears to be very clean. There are multiple new roads that had to be built for the project. Mr. Lawrence asked who will maintain these roads once the project is complete. Mr. Harris stated that this would fall on the turbine company to maintain the roads. Mr. Ives noted that this project uses renewable and recycled equipment.

Ag Tour

Ms. Yacano stated that the locations are all set for the Ag Tour. She received a phone call yesterday from Assemblywoman Lupardo's office. Ms. Lupardo is the Chair of the Committee on Agriculture and is committed to promoting the Chenango County Ag Tour to all members of the Assembly, including downstate legislators. Her office finds it important for downstate legislators to attend the tour and get an inside look at agricultural practices in upstate.

3. Privilege of the Floor – Members

Mr. Harris

Mr. Harris stated that they have just finished both the village taxes and assessment files. Mr. Harris also stated that Grievance Days are coming up soon. These are for assessment values, and not for taxes.

Mrs. Davis

Mrs. Davis stated that Dairy Day preparations are continuing. The event will be held at the Chenango County Fairgrounds on June 17th starting at 10:00 a.m. There will be no parade this year. Mrs. Davis shared that Dairy Day will kick off the Ice Cream Trail event which will last throughout the summer. Participants can get a card at Dairy Day, and then visit ice cream shops around the county to fill up a 'passport' and be entered to win a drawing after the event. Mrs. Davis stated that the June Board of Supervisors meeting will proclaim the month of June as Dairy Month.

Mr. Lawrence

Mr. Lawrence stated that Chenango County Soil and Water Conservation District will be offering a Community Forest Carbon Program. Under this program, owners



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of property greater than five acres of hardwood are eligible for \$200 - \$300 per acre. He stated that this is another form of income that agricultural landowners will be able to participate in. Mr. Lawrence urged interested members to contact Soil and Water if they have any questions about the program.

Mr. Vickers

Mr. Vickers stated that the Agricultural Budget passed, and he believes it to be a fair budget. Three of the main concerns with the budget are the minimum wage requirements, migrant workers, and cider operations. These items are unclear on how to proceed. Mr. Vickers stated that the farmers markets in Chenango County are working together to find a plan to expand. The Greene Farmers Market is expanding to hold events on Sundays and Wednesdays to provide fresh produce as the Great American has recently closed. Mr. Vickers has met with Craig Brown, the new Executive Director of Chenango County Cornell Cooperative Extension. They are working to get an FFA program in Norwich City School District. Mr. Vickers asked if anyone would like to provide an update on the potential migrant situation. Mr. Seneck stated that they met with various stakeholders yesterday, including representatives from DSS, the County Attorney, and the Office of Emergency Management to discuss a potential plan moving forward. Representatives from DSS are not expecting a large change in Chenango County but will have a potential impact on our surrounding counties. Chenango County does not have the lodging available that counties such as Broome, Cortland, and Otsego have, so they believe it will have an impact on those counties. Mr. Seneck does not believe the State of Emergency will hold up in court, due to the emergency not being a clear and real emergency, but instead a perceived one. Mr. Seneck sees this as a federal situation and not a local or state one.

Mr. Ives

Mr. Ives brought up a question regarding spacing between wells and property lines. Mr. Ives asked what the regulations are regarding this. Mr. Harris answered that often these regulations are outlined in subdivision or site plan regulations.

4. Meeting Adjournment

Mr. Vickers motioned to adjourn at 11:12 a.m., seconded by Mr. Lawrence. All remaining members voted ayes, carried.

NEXT MEETING: The Chenango County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board will meet on June 16 at 10:30 a.m.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Allison Yacano, Planner.



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Summary of Meeting Minutes

Date: 6/16/2023

Large Conference Room, County Office Building

<u>Board Members Present</u>		<u>Staff Present</u>	<u>Guest(s) Present</u>	<u>Board Member(s) Absent</u>
Terry Ives Stan Davis Marge Davis, Sup. John Lawrence, Sup.	Bradd Vickers	Matt Gladstone	Sandy Pierce	Rich Taber Shane Butler Steve Harris Nora Ling-Browning

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

1. Old Business

Mr. Ives asked if there were any comments or corrections for the _2023 Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Vickers moved, seconded by **Mr. Lawrence** to approve the May 2023 minutes of the Chenango County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board. All members voted ayes; the motion carried.

2. New Business

Renewable energy laws.

Mr. Ives asked how many municipalities in Chenango County have renewable energy laws.

Mr. Gladstone stated that the department didn't get a chance to look through all the municipalities, but we will continue to look into that.

Mr. Ives asked how much interest you think there is in a renewable energy law.

Mr. Gladstone stated that like I said in our last conversation I think if this group does some of the leg work on the renewable energy law, then maybe more



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municipalities' planning boards may be more willing to tweak it and adopt it so they have something on the books. But this is something we have to think about to see if we are willing to do that.

Mr. Lawrence asked is that our interest to do that or are we only interested in the ag land portion of this law.

Mr. Gladstone stated that is something that we have to think about but in my last conversation with Terry, we thought it because the ag land is part of it, we may as well do something to help out these municipalities that do not have the renewable energy law because these things go hand and hand.

Mr. Lawrence stated that there is a lot that goes into these laws, and I don't know if this committee should be tasked with something like this. This committee is tasked with trying to help farmers and help the county protect resources for the farmers so they can be profitable and protect the neighbors of the farms.

Fencing law.

Local law for New Berlin.

Mr. Ives stated you can see the New Berlin fence law that they have adopted and that should address the issue of animals running around in the road and so forth.

Mr. Vickers stated that maybe we can adjust this a little bit for the state level and see if we can use it to replace the outdated fence law.

Discussion took place about fines and how much they should be per offense.

Ag tour

Mr. Gladstone stated that all of the facilities are set and ready to go but the one issue that we are having this year is our speaker for the cannabis discussion has mixed a few things up and is now unable to make it to the discussion. We are looking into other groups and people from CANY to see if they will come over to do the discussion. The three facilities are all set to go the bus is set and paid for and lunch is ready as well. Everything is ready to go we are just waiting to see what will happen with the discussion.

Mr. Gladstone went over the schedule with the group and answered any questions that the group had.



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3. Privilege of the Floor – Members

Mr. And Mrs. Davis said that Chenango County dairy day is tomorrow at the fairgrounds.

Mr. Lawrence stated that the DEC in an effort to reduce air pollution mainly methane gas they are offering funding for a different kind of manure storage which is called cover and flair. It is an earth impoundment style of storage. They are interested in reducing methane and they feel like they can do it if two farms from each county each year will move to this style of storage.

Equip 3 new farms approved for funding two of which are in Chenango County.

Envirothon Chenango County attended and finished 34th out of 42 teams.

Mr. Vickers, I have a new board member who is on the NYS forestry board and also a logger and very involved in the forest industry, so I asked him about the Canada fires. He said it won't affect our lumber prices here. The only reason we are aware of it now is that the smoke made it to us this time. the county fair is from the 9th through the 13th. there is also a new kitchen here at OFC so they can do food demos and things like that. MR. Vickers asked the group if the towns and the county of Chenango has a right to farm law.

Mr. Ives stated that yes, the county has one it was adopted in 1993. This law doesn't really have any teeth and it's more of a feel-good law.

Mr. Gladstone. Stated that the planning department will be attending dairy day at the fair. We will be bringing out composting warms and some other information for the office to hand out.

Mr. Ives my most significant issue this week was the fence law and other than that summer goes on.

4. Privilege of the Floor – Guests

Mrs. Peirce the 2020 USDA stats show that 2.9 % of the nation's farms and forests are under foreign ownership. This was a 40% increase from 2019. What I wanted to let you know is that the Chinese communist party attempted to buy lambs' quarters farms over the last few months. It was very cleverly done. CCP operatives are using the ruse of being Christian Chinese families looking to escape the persecution of Christians in China. We have been advertising for a few years for a farm manager. This man reached out and we found out he was from Brooklyn and then moved to



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China. They are attempting to reach out to farms and try to buy them and he was pushing to buy our farms. They have been trying to buy them in order to control our food and be near military areas. I have reached out to the land trust, but I haven't heard back from anyone yet. So, if anyone has any suggestions that would be great. Our farmers are compassionate people and need to be forewarned to make sure that they carefully vet any potential buyer with this type of claim.

Discussion continued about land trust.

5. Meeting Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Lawrence

Seconded by Mr. Vickers all ayes and passed.

Next meeting to be held in the board room at 10:30 on 8/18/2023.

NEXT MEETING: The Chenango County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board will meet on at 9:00 a.m.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Matt Gladstone, Planner.



Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board



Summary of Meeting Minutes

Date: August 18th, 2023

Large Conference Room, County Office Building

<u>Board Members Present</u>		<u>Staff Present</u>	<u>Guest(s) Present</u>	<u>Board Member(s) Absent</u>
Terry Ives Stan Davis Marge Davis, Sup. John Lawrence, Sup.	Shane Butler Bradd Vickers	Matt Gladstone	Sandy Pierce Rob DeClue	Steve Harris Rich Taber Nora Ling-Browning

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

1. Old Business

Mr. Ives asked if there were any comments or corrections for the June 16th, 2023, Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Vickers moved, seconded by Mr. Lawrence to approve the June 16th 2023 minutes of the Chenango County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board. All members voted yes; the motion carried.

2. New Business

Solar

Mr. Butler stated that the planning department has our annual training coming up which we will be going over solar, solar regulations, and solar moratoriums so if you are interested in that you can reach out to us to sign up.

Mr. Butler added that we are looking to enter into an agreement with a company called Acadia Energy which works with the county to put solar farms on county property. The energy from these farms will stay here in the county. It can be used for businesses industry or residential.



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Mr. Gladstone stated that in the office we looked at a few county-owned land and so far, we have come up with about 200 acres of land that could be turned into a Microgrid here in the county.

Discussion continued about where these microgrid solar farms could be put and how the whole program works with Acadia Energy.

Mr. Butler informed the board that the good thing with this company is that we get to pick and choose the land that they put the solar field on. Which means we aren't putting them on prime agricultural land.

Ag Tour Recap

Mr. Ives stated that I think this year's tour went very well.

Mr. Gladstone stated that I agree and the reason that I put the recap on the agenda was I wanted to get feedback from this year's tour so we can make next year's tour better.

Mr. Butler stated that turnout wasn't as great as some years, but it still may be COVID-19 keeping the numbers down.

Mr. Ives stated that I think the discussion was great, especially at Marshman's farm. Each site we went to this year was a great learning experience.

Mr. Butler stated when matt and I were talking to Craig Brown and Mr. Angelino they asked if we could plan next year's tour sooner so that in January of next year, they can help lobby the tour and encourage more people to come to the event.

Mr. Ives stated that we can plan on the 3rd Friday of July for next year and we can start with that.

Mr. Butler stated that we already have some ideas for some sites for next year like Coco June who is now in Greene.

Mr. Gladstone stated that there is another location in the Greene area that I've been to which would be perfect for the tour. They are called Wander Creek Farms and they are a no-till style of farm.

Mr. Vickers stated that Greene Pasture Ranch has also been interested in being on the tour. The number for this farm is 607-237-1924

Mr. Lawrence stated that I also think it went well, I appreciated that Donna Lupardo was there along with the other representatives. The soil and water representatives from the county went to Albany and talked to the representatives



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about coming to Chenango County's ag tour so I think that's a great step but it's not enough.

Mr. Ives stated the food was good but with us having to pick off the menu it took too long. I also think the brewery was a great tour and we learned a lot from it.

Fair Ag Recap

Mr. Butler stated that I received an email from Craig Brown who is unable to make it today, but he said that from his perspective the 4H and ag-related areas of the fair were a big success. They grew again and we have a lot of youth that are interested in ag.

Mr. Vickers stated that we had a bigger tent for Farm to Fork this year and the FFA and a lot of the chapters were involved in demonstrations and competitions. We had farm bureau and crop judging but in general, it went well. Craig was very busy with the youth and there were a lot of young people in the ag area interested in ag. Mary did great as well running around getting everything running smoothly and for a county fair, I think we did a really good job.

Mr. Ives stated that I mainly saw the cattle area, but it worked out having it fenced off. The milk and dairy barn were a hit because there was a lot of milk sold.

Mr. Ives asked how did attendance turn out?

Mrs. Davis stated that I don't know. I don't personally think they should be giving a free day on Wednesday because of the parade. I don't think a lot of people realize the amount of time and work that goes into putting that fair on. It's hard to judge with attendance because of memberships and free days but also because of senior day. The biggest day money-wise was Friday because of midnight madness with the rides.

More discussion about the fair and grounds continued.

Mr. Butler started to take the 2050 vision plan survey and informed the group about the survey and project. Mr. Butler and Mr. Gladstone informed the group that the planning department sent out surveys to all supervisor's clerks and libraries around the county. We also put it online and on Facebook, so it is in multiple places for people to find and take the survey.

3. Privilege of the Floor – Members



Chenango County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board



Mrs. Davis, I had a call from a real estate agent wanting to know if a property was in an ag district and the binder that the planning department gave us for ag districts was very helpful. Then they asked if they could get in the ag district, and I told them yes there is a time of the year that happens.

Mr. Butler confirmed this and informed Mrs. Davis that it is February into the beginning of March to be included in the ag district.

Mr. Lawrence. There are two things that came out of the Fish and Wildlife Management Board. Currently, there is a bill to oppose all hunting competitions. Second, there are new background checks going into effect on September 13th of this year for ammo purchases and it will cost the individual an additional 2.50 charge for ammo and a 9-dollar charge for firearms to do the background checks. I think this is going to be an impediment to people who sell firearms. the other thing is there is a bank stabilization project going on which Rob can tell you all more about.

Mr. Declue added that they are taking trees with its root balls still attached are being put into the bank of the river along with rocks to help keep the bank stable in high water events. The hope is that once it is in place and the seedlings that are put there have time to establish themselves to hold everything together. But I agree with John but there are a lot of unanswered questions with the state's new background checks so we will hopefully find out more soon.

Mr. Vickers, I was just out in Duluth Minnesota, and on my way back I stopped in Illinois at a gun shop and this kid at the counter took me behind the counter and let me pick out what I wanted which is nothing like New York. For Farm Bureau NYS ag committee sent a letter asking them to allow school districts to offer whole and 2% milk in schools. Also, we are working with some groups to do a program for animal abuse training.

Mr. Ives. For my report, I went to Empire Farms days and it's not what it used to be. I guess the progress show near Herkimer is now being run by country folks this year, so it won't be the same as it was. I am a delegate to go to the national milk organization down in Florida, but I should be back for the cheese sale.

Meeting Adjournment at 11:35

NEXT MEETING: The Chenango County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board will meet on _ at 9:00 a.m.

Minutes recorded and prepared by Matt Gladstone, Planner.