

Town of Ancram
Agriculture & Farmland Protection Plan Project Team Meeting
June 1, 2009; 5 PM

Present: Art Bassin, Sue Bassin, Barry Chase, Marnie MacLean, Harold Miller, Jerry Peele, Nan Stolzenburg

The meeting was called to order by Art Bassin at 5 PM.

The Committee reviewed and approved the minutes of the May meeting.

1. Project Plan/Budget: Ms. Stolzenburg reviewed the proposed project plan and budget. The budget for the effort is Ag & Farmland Protection Plan is \$33,000, with \$25,000 coming from the NYS grant, and \$8300 coming from a town match.

2. Grant Status -- Mr. Bassin reported we have gotten the Ag & Farmland Protection Plan Grant Contract for \$25,000, have applied for a \$6250 advance on that grant to get started, but have not yet received the advance.

3. Farm Inventory – The Committee reviewed the Inventory form and made final revisions. Ms. Stolzenburg will print out copies and return envelopes. The Committee decided to distribute the Inventory forms by mid-June and request them back by 6/30. Mr. Bassin will coordinate with Ms. Stolzenburg to determine the costs of the survey and the logistics of getting them tabulated, and will develop a one page set of “instructions” to go with the Inventory.

4. Farmer/Landowner List – The Committee reviewed and finalized the farmer/farm operator list, compared the farm operator list against the ag exemption list to make sure we had all the farmers, and identified which Committee members could hand-deliver the survey to the farm operators who will be asked to fill out the farm inventory.

5. Other issues – Ms. MacLean asked if the Committee had a “mission statement”. The Committee concluded its mission was to develop an Ag & Farmland protection plan to NYS Dept of Ag & Markets standards as outlined in the grant application. The Committee discussed the following additional matters:

- a. the need to relate rented farmland to each operating farm
- b. the need to identify all landowners who rented land to farmers
- c. the need to educate landowners about farming and agricultural basics
- d. need for a brochure about farming in Ancram

Ms. Stolzenburg indicated she would send a copy of a Massachusetts brochure which covered farming and agricultural basics.

6. Next Meeting – The Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan Project Team will meet again on Monday, July 6 at 5 PM at the Town Hall.