

Town of Canandaigua

5440 Routes 5 & 20 West
Canandaigua, New York 14424

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2017, 6:00 P.M.

Meeting Called by:	Mark Stryker, Chair
Members Present:	Mark Stryker Bob DiCarlo Gary Davis Tim Riley
Members Absent:	Fernando Soberon Ray Henry
Town Representatives:	Doug Finch, Town Manager Sarah Reynolds, Development Office
Guests:	Andrea Badger from FLCC workforce development Amy Jones from FLTCC/BOCES ag education program

➤ **CALL TO ORDER**

1. Meeting called to order at 6:07 pm by Mark Stryker (MS)

➤ **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

- None at this time

➤ **REPORT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE**

None at this time

➤ **REFERRALS**

None at this time.

➤ **OLD BUSINESS**

1. PDR Rankings – top 3 applications approved by TB 11/20/17
 - a. Stryker application will be handled by the Finger Lakes Land Trust with support from the Town – this application is geographically situated next to/near the Gerlock application that will be sent to Ag and Markets by the Genesee Land Trust
 - b. The Town will be making application to Ag and markets for two farms: Jean Bucher and Keith Purdy.

➤ **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Agricultural Education Partnerships - Guests from BOCES and FLCC
 - a. There was a discussion about the NYAAE conference and an app that was demonstrated there – virtual reality farming – great tool for kids or for the public who is not really aware of how farms work. Amy Jones (AJ) said her students have used this app and she thinks it's great.
 - b. Bob DiCarlo (BD) added that there are apps for trying out farming equipment too.
 - c. MS added that the public would benefit from using these apps – more awareness
 - d. AJ said the key is to get kids involved at the elementary level – this app is a great example but also field trips to farms, gardens, etc.
 - e. There was a discussion about encouraging more 'buy local' with agriculture – food on average travels

1600 miles from farm to supermarket.

- i. Locally Wegmans is trying to purchase from local farms but it's hard for local farmers to grow enough product to meet supermarket volume needs
- ii. Tim Riley (TR) said perhaps co-ops of smaller (local) farms could compile their products to meet local stores' needs
- iii. TR – we also need a local slaughterhouse – have to travel to a USDA approved slaughterhouse.
 1. Also need shared freezer space for local meat producers.
- iv. Andrea Badger (AB) says NY WCC tries to promote local farm-to-table events
 1. Like TR's Winter Winter Chicken Dinner, for example, featuring TR's poultry
 2. AB asked whether NYWCC could be involved in this discussion on Ag Education??
- v. Doug Finch (DF) asked about FLCC's strategic planning and Agriculture. AB said sustainability is key in FLCC's latest plan. Community partnerships. Increase awareness of farming knowledge
- vi. MS added that we need basic programs to teach kids about farming
- vii. AJ – ag education is in its infancy
- viii. AB – serves on Honeoye School board – summer programs may be a great way to introduce ag education in the grade schools.
 1. DF proposed that the Town could possibly sponsor a 1 or 2 week summer camp if there is an interest in developing something like this
 - a. Ag Committee would be heavily involved in planning – perhaps involve field trips to different farms each day/local parks
 - b. MS – in support of this idea
 2. TR – cafeteria waste should be used in these programs – feed compost/worm bins/pigs/chickens/ etc.
 3. AJ spoke about internships at local CSAs – could be a 12 month recurring program.
 4. Gary Davis (GD) there may be grant money available for ag education – some communities up north have had success in this. Ag seems to be coming back to the two year schools.
 5. AJ said there are online classes for ag – cheaper than traditional classroom set up
 6. Seneca County holds an ag event annually where they showcase products/farmers
 - a. MS added that the history of ag should be/is a part of this
 - b. AJ spoke about a great historical ag documentary featuring the finger lakes called “Harvest” and recommended it to the group.
 7. AB mentioned that her program holds an Ag Career Day each spring. there are farm visits and the Cooperative extension is usually there too.
 8. AB stressed that we not reinvent the wheel – there are local opportunities already in place to increase awareness and ag education but they should be pushed more to the public
 9. TR – ag is heavy with tech and robotics – kids are interested in this – make them aware
 10. AJ – her ag students also take related classes – right now they are taking welding to supplement their ag education
 11. BD participated in a career fair and brought a video and exposed many students to farming that day who may not have otherwise known about it.
 12. AJ added that we should use these opportunities to the best of our ability to share ag knowledge

- ix. TR – we need more family farms / more ag education about this
- x. MS asked what Roadblocks exist for ag education or to families beginning farming?
 - 1. Parents are a roadblock – need to talk more with their kids about where their food comes from.
 - 2. MS – families need to want farming;
 - 3. TR – local markets not set up to support family farms; farming jobs are unreliable and often not year round; physically demanding
 - 4. TR – hard for someone to obtain 500 acres to get started in farming if they don't already have the land.
 - 5. AJ – who can help with this? Multi-national organizations?
 - 6. MS – Ag college in Ohio has a ready list of companies and organizations who are ready to hire agricultural program graduates
 - 7. MS – our Town should have a farm inventory (all farmers – bees/maple/crops/vegetables/meat/etc.)
 - 8. DF – Hungry Bear Honey is coming to the Town – manufacturing and honey processing
 - 9. MS – we need to make ag education stand out. –get past the roadblocks – farmers touch many businesses in the area through their purchases – better awareness of this is needed
 - 10. TR – vertically integrate farming profits
 - 11. BD – we need to concentrate more on the positive of farming rather than the negatives we have spoken of here.
 - 12. DF – we need more local ag to support local manufacturers who need the products (Artisan meats needs more pork products – can't get enough locally) BUT residents may complain about having a larger scale pig farm in their backyard.
 - 13. Field trips – childcare centers, schools, etc. – have to push the issue and interest and encourage those facilities to take farm field trips. – parents?
 - 14. AJ – start the conversation, keep trying (field trips)

➤ **MEMBERS' REPORTS**

None at this time.

➤ **UPCOMING MEETING TOPICS**

- 1. Jan 4, 2018 – Continued discussion re: Ag Ed Partnerships – Jake Amidon from FLCC will be coming
- 2. Feb 1, 2018 – Joint meeting with Special Events Committee – 2018 OC Fair Planning

➤ **ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING**

- Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM. Next meeting will be Jan 4, 2018.