

Town of Canandaigua

5540 Routes 5 & 20 West
Canandaigua, N. Y. 14424
Established 1789

Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, Aug. 3rd, 2017

Meeting Called by:	Mark Stryker, Chair
Committee Members:	Mark Stryker, Chair Bob DiCarlo, Vice Chair Ray Henry, Recording Secretary Gary Davis Tim Riley Fernando Soberon
Town Representatives:	Doug Finch

Called to Order at 6:00pm by Chairman Mark Stryker

Privilege of the Floor - No one spoke

Report of the Development Office: Report by Doug Finch

PDR Application window is now open.

- Letters to Agricultural Land owners' ≥ 50 acres mailed June 1st.

Doug reported that three have been received to date and anticipates at least three more. Most to date have been generally small applications, approximately 50 to 70 acres in size. Normally made up of owners renting the land to farmers.

There seems to be some interest in a Lease Program rather than the Perpetual Conservation Easement Program where they would sign up for perhaps a ten year (or perhaps a twenty year) Lease, at the end of which time they could decide whether to

sign up for the Perpetual program or just walk away. This would be the first of this type of agreement.

One or two of the three parcels are in the Padelford Greenway. The remaining are near it. One abuts the Brock Acres parcel.

After the September deadline, the applications will be accumulated and then this Board will, with the Environmental Committee, combine to evaluate the submissions. One recommendation will then be forwarded to the Finger Lakes Land Trust for their announcement. It is conceivable that we may be able to submit more than one this year. A detailed conversation on Land Trusts and the Padelford Greenway followed.

The Town of Canandaigua is in an enviable position because we have adopted an Agricultural Enhancement Plan.

- A discussion on flooding issues was entered into, and how that might affect farm issues. In light of these issues and the resultant weather we have been experiencing, it shows the requirement that all environmental groups need to work together. Public awareness, especially from this group is very important

Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) Applications:

- TDRs are specifically aimed at the Padelford Greenway because we had to define a sending and receiving area. A presentation will be made at the Town Board on August 21st at 6:00pm. Doug described the importance of the MUO Three on the east side of the Lake Shore and how it can be used by developers to exchange parcel rights for Padleford Greenway land rights with finances coming from developers and Ag & Markets, not the Town of Canandaigua.

There will also be a Resolution at the August 21st meeting relating to Complete Streets. Streets will be reviewed on a street by street basis, depending on the Highway Supervisor's planned work for each year for required sidewalks/walkways applications.

Referrals - None reported

Old Business New Business - High praise was given to the results of the Towns efforts on the Ontario County Fair.

New Business

Public Awareness: How do we make the residents more aware of the Agricultural efforts in the Town? Tim Riley suggested we make an effort to reduce the amount of grass that we have and replace a lot of it with samples of crops. Another suggestion was some sort of demos at Miller Park. In fact, the Parks and Trails Committee is presently working on a comprehensive plan which could feasibly contain an agricultural component.

Referring to the 2011 Comprehensive Plan, there were four items suggested:

1. Have Farm Tours and other events to celebrate our Agricultural Heritage;
2. Maintain information at the Town Hall regarding farming practices;
3. Place signage along the Town entrances elaborating on our Town heritage and character;
4. Create an Advisory Committee.

Mark Stryker suggested the use of an electronic message board out in front of the Town Hall similar to the one in front of the High School. A discussion followed

There was also a discussion referring to working with High Schools, 4H, BOCES and others regarding an agricultural program. FFLC has also reportedly expressed an interest in working with this committee. It was suggested that we invite representatives of these educational groups to come to talk with us at one of our meetings.

Doug suggested that we could produce short programs on smart phones, for instance, through visits to one of our farms that could be shown on facebook, or our website, of an Agricultural focus. Or we could set up a special meeting for all of the boards to emphasize the Business of Agriculture.

This topic expanded into a discussion about shared services with the City of Canandaigua, tourism, the effects of Agriculture on the businesses in the City, who are the receivers of the local farmer's various products, etc. Our primary goal must be Economic Development as it pertains to the farmers, to assure that the farms can pass on to future generations.

Members' Reports

Ray Henry described the concept of a centrally located Agricultural Museum as an educational venue for all ages, and the progress that is being made in that effort.

Next Meeting to be held on September 14th @ 6:00pm

Meeting was adjourned at approx. 7:50 pm.

Ray Henry, Recording Secretary