

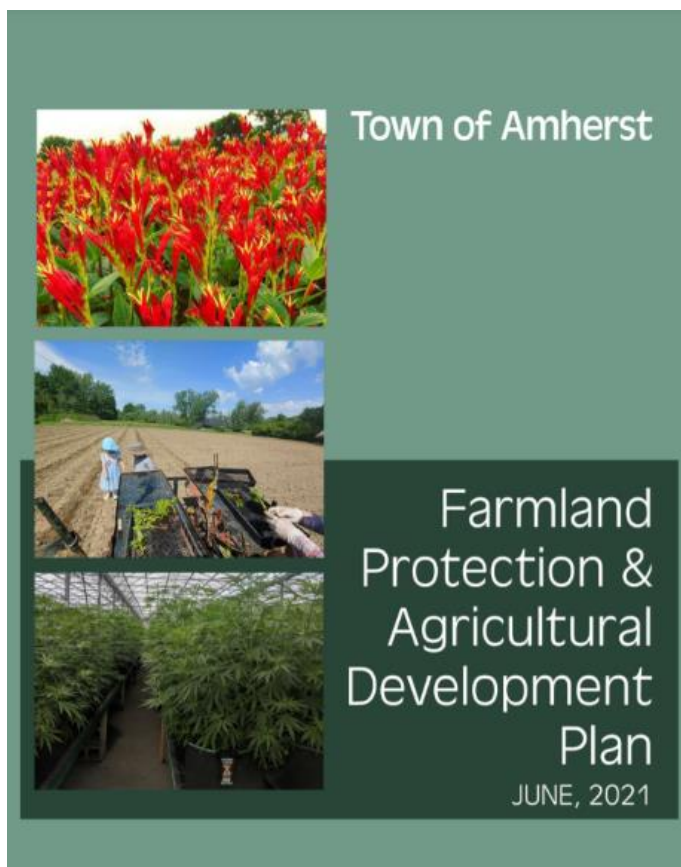


TOWN OF AMHERST RECOGNIZED BY NY UPSTATE CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION

Farmland Protection and Agricultural Development Plan Earns Best Practice Award

Town of Amherst Supervisor Brian Kulpa announces that the Town's Planning Department and its project consultant, Wendel, have been recognized by the New York Upstate Chapter of the American Planning Association (NYU APA) as a 2021 Professional Award recipient. The Town was honored for its Amherst Farmland Protection and Agricultural Development Plan, which earned a Best Practice Award.

"Being recognized for the Town's Amherst Farmland Protection and Agricultural Development Plan is an honor and I want to thank the Planning Department staff, Wendel, and the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Steering Committee who worked diligently on this award-winning plan. The Town's Plan was the accumulation of many hours of work and in the end, we have a really great plan to protect, develop and grow agriculture on the Town of Amherst. Through our Amherst Farmland Protection and Agricultural Development Plan, we embraced the opportunities available throughout the Town, looking at all categories in the agriculture industry," said Supervisor Kulpa.



APA detailed the award-winning application as follows: "Amherst Farmland Protection and Agricultural Development Plan. For a farmland protection plan to be effective in Amherst it needed to address the current development pressure pushing north into the historically agricultural district in Town. A strategy had to include a separate section that shows agricultural

lands as not only a physical asset to the community but also an important contributor to the local economy. Identifying agriculture as an economic asset as well as a natural asset adds another layer of value to these lands. Thus, a hybrid model for the farmland protection plan was formed: a farmland protection component with an economic analysis of its contributions to the Town's economy."

The NY Upstate Chapter honored seven projects in all which will be recognized at the 2022 Chapter Conference or other future event due to the pandemic that forced the Chapter to hold a virtual conference in 2021. These projects were deemed to have illustrated great planning in Upstate New York.

In a recent press release from the Chapter, Sean Maguire, the Vice President and Chapter Awards Chair said, "Each year, the New York Upstate Chapter has the wonderful challenge of reviewing applications from our colleagues and communities and learning more about what is happening around the state. We are pleased to announce the recipients of the 2021 Professional Awards highlighting the best in planning across Upstate New York creating great communities for all."

The Town's Amherst Farmland Protection and Agricultural Development Plan can be viewed on the Town's website: https://www.amherst.ny.us/pdf/planning/farmland/211006_approved_plan.pdf.