

NOTES

Town of Amherst Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan Advisory Committee Meeting

Teleconference (meeting info to be sent separately)

April 8, 2021

7:00 pm

MEETING WAS RECORDED AND WILL BE POSTED ONLINE FOR VIEWING

Bob Gilmour (BG)
Mike Badding (MB)
Sarah Gatti (SG)
Rick Vilonen (RV)
Mike Pope (MP)
Jon O'Rourke (JO)
Dan Howard (DH)

Roberta Rappoccio (RR)
Ellen Parker (EP)
Leanne Voit (LV)
Wendy Salvati (WS)
Victoria Storrs (VS)

1. PROJECT STATUS

- This is the final meeting of the Ag Committee with the Consultant Team
- Erie County Ag board meeting is 6/24/21 with submittal 6/10/21
- Committee has been provided with drafts of each chapter throughout the process and Wendel will develop a full draft after comments are received.
- Drafts are just text at this point. Once we have agreement on the text we will do stylistic/graphics edits
 - Looking for pictures of farming/Ag activity around Town. This could be farming activities, equipment, barns, sunsets over fields, crops, events, markets.
 - Send Leanne Voit an email with pictures, links to pictures, or with a request to open a Dropbox folder.

2. PUBLIC MEETING

- Jeff Kehoe is requiring us to have the public meeting before we submit
- DH: This is meant to be an open meeting
 - Maybe have it available on the website?
 - Have a zoom meeting?
 - Intent is not to just check the box
- BG: how do we draw people?
- LV: historically, we have not experienced large turnout for Ag plans at public meetings. Those interested are usually involved in the committee.
- Format and date discussion:
 - Option 1: Town board work session 15-minute presentation
 - We could do a full public meeting, however given the timeline, and the discussion at the last meeting, we are proposing that we follow the Supervisor's suggestion to present at a Town Board work session. Wendel would present for 15 mins and the Town would collect comments after. The meeting on May 17th would be our target

- Option 2: Separate Public meeting
- Decision: This will be its own event...not at the Town Board meeting
 - Need to draw people to it
 - DH: needs to be remote
 - DH: record a video. Hold a zoom meeting where you present the video then open it up for discussion. Post it for live viewing and allow comments
 - LEV: do a presentation in the zoom meeting then opens it up to everyone for discussion
 - WWS: do a webinar video with ways for people to offer input
 - Use social media to reach out!
 - FINAL DECISION: zoom format presentation with opportunities for comments from the public. Will be recorded and posted to the Town website and social media for additional comment
 - Set strict timeline for comments
 - Week of 4/27
 - DH to discuss with BK and select a final date

3. DISCUSSION ON DRAFT PLAN

- Focus on Implementation Matrix
 - Committee provided comments as we reviewed. Those comments were recorded directly on the matrix, and revisions will be made accordingly
- Committee to provide additional comments on Introduction and Implementation chapters to RR by end of day Monday 4/12/21.

4. OTHER DISCUSSION/NEXT STEPS?

- DH: does the committee feel like another meeting and additional review is needed? No
- DH: Does the committee want to see the entire document pulled together one more time? Yes
 - ELP: this is not the last opportunity for comment. Once the full plan is complete and we hold the public meeting, there will be minor revisions before the plan is sent to the State.
- Planning Department suggests one last meeting with the committee following the public meeting to hold final discussions on the Plan prior to its official submission to the state.
- 4/12: Committee send comments on Draft documents to RR
- 4/13: RR to send comments to Wendel
- 4/10: Full Draft of all chapters to Town
- 4/23: Committee to send photos of Ag activities to LV
- Week of 4/27: Public meeting
- Early May: send plan to State
- 6/10: submit plan to County
- 6/24: attend County Ag board meeting
- 7/12: Town Board Public hearing
- 7/26: Town Board Adoption
- 7/31: Final Closeout Plan to State

5. **THANK YOU! Your input and participation have been invaluable to the Plan!**