

# Agriculture and Open Space Advisory Committee

Minutes - **December 10, 2007**

Submitted by Robert McKeon

In attendance: Miriam Latzer, Richard Biezynski, Ken Migliorelli, Craig Vogel, Robert McKeon, Mary Ann Johnson, Peter Hubbell, Larry Thetford

Absent: Beth Mead, Clerk Elizabeth Wilkins

The meeting convened at 8:05 pm.

## **Farmers Appreciation Event in Tivoli and other events**

Mayor Cordier has indicated that he would like to explore the possibility of making last summer's event an annual occasion. The committee discussed the various possibilities that might exist for attaining private funding and donations. Discussion also included whether to hold these events at different farm locations as well as possible joint ventures with different clubs to hold promotional events at rotating farms - (ex. bike clubs etc.). The recreation park worked well for the event.

## **Keep Farming Update**

Larry and Mary Ann reported that a presentation to the Town Board in January or February would be appropriate. During the interval the CAP should continue to solicit more resident surveys; though there were apparently over 160 completed so far. The Glynwood Center would then meet with the CAP and offer guidance based upon the survey results.

## **Farm to School**

Kenny reported that more goods are being purchased by the School District. He did however, share with us some of the difficulties with the cider that he introduced in the last year. Robert shared with us his discussion with a Red Hook resident who wants to explore freeze dry single serving packages of fresh fruits and vegetables grown on one of our farms here. The project would entail construction of a facility which would include green energy alternatives and would produce both job and educational opportunities.

## **Farmland Preservation**

Updates of the farmland protection projects and the grants associated with each project were reviewed. Regarding the Central Hudson corridor, the committee unanimously felt that the Town should facilitate a simultaneous purchase and sale of the breadbasket portion to protect this corridor from incompatible development next to the Linden, Greig and Dorriedale farms before the available funding from Scenic Hudson expires.

**Agricultural Business District Update** - We received an update from Greenplan on the progress of the ABD and review outstanding issues. Craig, Robert and Mary Ann have assembled a working draft of individual property characteristics which we will be attempting to automate so that the public can access over the computer. Maps were produced to help facilitate the process; we will need to identify who has the capability of doing the necessary computer design work.

**Farm Map** - There was discussion that we should now reach out to local businesses to see who wanted to place an ad on the Farms of Red Hook Map - so that production can be ready by late spring and copies can be circulated town-wide. We will need to come up with a budget for the different production levels.

**Miscellaneous** - Robert has been approached by folks trying to find a new location for the annual Grey Fox Bluegrass Festival. The Rothvoss farm in Ancramdale, which the festival normally takes place on is being sold and they are in need of a new location. Attached was memorandum with some of the requirements necessary to accommodate such an event. As it was getting late, discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

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The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 14, 2008.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35pm