

**AGRICULTURE AND OPEN SPACE  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Minutes - January 14, 2008

Members Present: Rich Biezinski, Larry Thetford, Robert McKeon, Ken Miglorelli, Beth Mead  
Elizabeth Wilkins, Miriam Latzer, Mary Ann Johnson, Pete Hubbell

Members Absent: Craig Vogel

Minutes taken by: Elizabeth Wilkins

Meeting Time: 8:00pm

**Farmland Protection:** The committee discussed the status of the various projects in the pipeline. They include the Mead Orchard New York State /Dutchess County/Red Hook match as well as Dutchess County /Red Hook combination for Wil-Hi farms. It is expected that both projects could close in the coming months pending approval by the county legislature.

The Northern Tivoli assemblage, which is a joint Scenic Hudson/ Red Hook/ Landowner contribution match has still not been put to a vote by the Town Board. It was reported that Scenic Hudson has indicated that their board approved these funds two years ago and that a resolution needs to be forthcoming to avoid re-allocation elsewhere.

The committee discussed the potential PDR applications that may follow a letter of interest signed by many of the largest landowners on that road. After some discussion, it was decided that we should review the parcels and determine which meet the criteria as outlined in the various matching programs (state, county, town) to try to ascertain how the town could maximize leveraging of funding dollars to the benefit of the taxpayers. It was determined that we should send a letter to each landowner describing the programs with the town's application.

The AGOS has discussed the fast approaching deadline regarding the Central Hudson properties and determined that it should reiterate to the Town Board a recommendation to proceed to protect these lands against inappropriate development. Some funding has been offered by Scenic Hudson and landowners adjacent to the parcels have expressed interest. This corridor splits protected and/or important farms (Linden, Greig etc.) and the possibility of purchase and sale of the parcels with little or no expense to the town should be explored.

**Marketing:** As part of its continuing marketing and community awareness efforts, the committee has decided to work with the Keep Farming Committee to revise the farms of Red Hook map into an easier to carry folding brochure. The committee will be looking for underwriters or grants to produce a newer version. The committee decided to support Mayor Cordier's efforts to have a farmer's appreciation event on the last weekend in July.

**Farm to School:** Mary Ann reported on continued efforts to further place products in our and schools. Clara Wittek and the Red Hook Central School District was recently recognized by the Northern Dutchess Alliance for their work in this area. The Wellness committee of RHCS D has indicated they would like to continue to work with us to promote healthier alternatives.

**Agricultural Assessments:** Committee members have requested that NYS ORPS be invited back to Red Hook to discuss assessment laws and programs with interested Red Hook landowners. An evening event in March was discussed.

The next meeting of the AGOS is scheduled for Wednesday, February 27, 2008.