

AGOS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

February 23, 2009

In attendance: Miriam latzer, Richard Biezynski, Ken Migliorelli, Peter Hubble, Larry Thetford and visitor Jim Hegstetter

Old Business:

1. Committee Clerk: Committee members listed several possible individuals to contact.
2. Winter Farm Market: High level of interest, great sales (many vendors ran out of produce), much greater number of people turned out than expected. Overall very positive for the community. Every one (vendors and public) want another winter farm market for 2009 / 2010 and to consider longer than 3 months and possibly having the market every 2 weeks. On the negative side, space is tight in the Elmendorph limiting the number of vendors which can create some ill feelings. the numbers of people in the building may have exceeded the fire code. In the future the Elmendorph will need some reimbursement for cost of heat, elec, and clean up. Some of the vendors got agitated at some local politicians handing out candy.
3. Task Force Recommendation for Agricultural Land / Building Buffer Zone: After much discussion. the committee decided to recommend 200 feet as a buffer between a new building and agricultural land.
4. Preservation of Farmers, not just Farm Land, Funds to Help Young Farmers Buy / Rent Land: First the committee discussed the need followed by the fact that some land is just being bought up for spec. only which creates a false current value. Young farmers need to be able to purchase land at the Ag. value. Pete said he would bring is some literature on what was being done in other areas so we can keep the agenda topic open till next meeting.
5. Update on Local Farm Brochure: Need some more printed up. A few minor changes and fill in a space on the back which John Schmidt could do. Also need some money to cover cost of printing, Can we use part our \$1500 operating budget or can we get a grant from the State AG. and Markets?

New Business:

1. Agricultural Education in the School System: Ag awareness should be included as part of the curriculum. The cost of food and food production is tending to escalate and students should be aware of what it requires to provide sustenance at the table. Dutchess County Bounty can help to build direct relations with the school system.
2. Storing and Preserving Farm Produce : The committee felt that this was a very worthwhile subject to pursue for both our own information and as an educational service to the community. It was agreed to investigate what resources are available through Cooperative Extension and Cornell.
3. Other: Glenwood Center had asked a question as to whether we thought a portable slaughter house would be feasible to operate in the Hudson Valley. Committee felt it would have to be too large and have significant refrigeration in addition to the processing room as to wield it

unconventional for the road and they questioned whether there was enough business to justify the cost.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Thetford - Co-Chair