

Town of Red Hook Ag & Open Space Committee
Minutes
April 27, 2009
6pm-7pm

Present: Ken Migliorelli, Beth Mead, Miriam Latzer, Pete Hubbell, Larry Thetford, Mary Ann Johnson, Elizabeth Wilkins

Absent : Rich Bieskynski

Others: Norm Greig, Don Stickle

Discussion items:

Mary Ann noted the meeting would only be one hour tonight due to the wake for Bob Bowman.

Norm Greig – Norm came to the Ag Committee to better understand the benefits of the proposed Agricultural Business District (ABD). Norm indicated he had concerns including:

- Red Hook is not an ag community – it is a suburban community
- In the past, if the town did not understand ag – they went to the state
- Community can regulate ag locally
- ABD is about open space, not Ag
- Indicated in proposing uses on his farm in the past, the town noted they would be non-conforming
- Ag talked about as viewshed
- Code is more stringent than state guidelines
- Labor camps – need to be removed
- Do not define agriculture
- Neighbors can petition against farming practices

Don Stickle – Don came to the committee to talk about neighbor issues. He indicated the proposed Zoning was confusing. He currently has an issue with one neighbor which resulted in fines from the DEC.

- Kenny and Norman mentioned getting calls about spreading lime
- Neighbor can cause major problems
- Sense that people do not understand or want agriculture in Red Hook
- MA asked what should be done? Should we do educational campaign about living in a farm community?
- Beth noted ag is currently regulated. Is this proposal worse than what we have?
- MA and Larry noted we need facts/examples about the proposal so it can be reviewed appropriately