

Town of Red Hook

Agriculture and Open Space Committee

Minutes of May 23, 2011

Attendance: Co-chairperson Peter Hubbell, Richard Biezynski, Mary Ann Johnson, Marina Michahelles, Kenneth Migliorelli, James Stagias

Absent: Co-chairperson Norman Greig, Michael Grady

Guests: Rich Hansen, Town Board Councilman William O'Neill (liaison)

Note: The Secretary was not available for the full meeting due to a meeting conflict which Pete Hubbell was made aware for several weeks. Linda Keeling arrived for the last 15 minutes of the meeting and got the overall meeting happenings from Pete afterwards.

Co-chairperson Pete Hubbell opened the meeting at about 7:15 pm. in the Conference Meeting Room at the Red Hook Town Hall. He passed out an agenda to everyone.

Note: The Draft Minutes from April 25, 2011 were not approved at this time.

Discussions: (Topic areas taken from the agenda)

1. Farm Tours and Red Hook Ag Roundtable

The farm tours fall under the Roundtable so it is not up to this group to do.

2. OPAV (Option to Purchase at Agricultural Value) Conference at local level for Red Hook Farmers and landowners: Marina and Lindsey will contact Alex Wiley from the Farm Land Trust.

The OPAV is a further conservation easement clause to restrict development to a full time farmer.

There was a long discussion on promoting buying local to support individual farm stands rather than a farmer's market. Ideas explored were coupons and Red Hook dollars. They will be working with the Red Hook Chamber of Commerce.

3. Discussion of future committee. How to make group positive and productive? What's our job beyond zoning? There was a reverence to exploring grants to support local farmers. Member Mary Ann Johnson and grant writer Linda Keeling will see what might be available.

4. **Ag Fencing.** Review Mary Ann's Proposed Changes.

MOTION: Richard Biezynski motioned to accept the proposed changes and Ken Migliorelli seconded. All agreed.

Mary Ann's proposed changes will be sent to the Town Board.

New Business:

1. **Planning Board** failure to provide AOSC with referrals of proposed actions on projects that impact agricultural lands per Town Law 3, 2002, Town Code Chapter 3, Section 143-47 (4): Important Farmlands (d):

"The Planning Board shall refer the proposed farmland protection plan to the Town's Agricultural Advisory Committee for review and recommendation as part of its consideration of the preliminary conceptual plan."

2. **Projects currently being discussed** by the Planning Board at their May 2, 2011 meeting that appear to impact farmland:

a. *Vosburgh / Kesicke Farm:* site plan for a farm market 1 on a 74.1 acre parcel in R1.5 zone

b. *MC Acres:* Middle Rd., minor subdivision to create 2 residential lots of 9.3 and 18.7 acres with remaining lands of 36.6 acres out of a 64.5 acre parcel in RD3 zone.

3. **Past Planning Board projects** that have been reviewed:

a. *Arvine and Wendy Coon:* 7221 Route 9, Special permit to establish a farm market 2 on a 1.65 acre site (2 parcels) in a R1.5 zone.

b. *Oakes at Lakes Kill:* Feller Newmark Rd.: preliminary major subdivision plat for a cluster development of 12 residential lots on a 100.45 acre parcel in the RD3 zone.

Mary Ann explained briefly about each project as she had called Michele (Greig?) about the updates. Mary Ann explained that the AOSC does not have purview over special permit reviews just subdivisions. MC Acres is from a larger subdivision, Coon is a special permit and Oakes is working with the Planning Board on several issues. The Planning Board is not ready to refer but will. The only thing that should come to this group is what falls under the important farmland law.

Co-chairman Hubbell was glad to hear that the Oakes project will come to the AOSC when ready. He was unaware of the process.

4. **Based on the law** are these projects within the AOSC legislated area of interest? Should a member of Committee attend Planning Board meetings?

5. **Summer Meetings**: Ken suggested continuing to meet once per month based on the need. Email communications will continue to inform the members of meetings or cancellations or the potential to meet more, if needed.

***MOTION:** Ken Migliorelli moved to adjourn, Mary Ann Johnson seconded and all agreed.*

Linda Keeling inquired if the address listing needed any corrections. All seemed to be fine with it.

The meeting adjourned at 8: 00 pm.

The next regular meeting is **Monday, June 27, 2011** at 7:00 pm. at the town hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, secretary

Approved 7/25/11