

Town of Red Hook

Agriculture and Open Space Committee

Minutes of September 23, 2014

Attendance: Co-chairperson Norman Greig (speaker phone), Michael Robertson, John Hardeman, Richard Biezynski, Marina Michahelles and Linda Keeling, secretary.

Absent: Co-chairperson Pete Hubbell, Ken Migliorelli, Mary Ann Johnson and Town Board Councilman William O'Neill (liaison)

Guests: None, there were no members from the ZRC.

Meeting Opened: In absentia of the co-chairmen, Richard Biezynski opened the meeting at 7:20 pm.

Minutes: Rich Biezynski had John Hardeman phone co-chairman Norman Greig. There was a quorum. There were no corrections to the minutes.

Motion: *Mike Robertson* motioned to accept the minutes from August 26, 2014, *Richard Biezynski* seconded, all agreed.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Communications: As of this meeting, no written narrative has been received by the co-chairmen regarding the revisions to the fence law. Everyone in attendance continues to be disappointed that the Ag Committee has not received any communication from Chairman Susan Simon regarding this long term issue.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Next ZRC Meeting: It was noted that the next joint meeting is **Thursday, Oct. 9th**.

Co-chairman Norman Greig reported that he did not receive anything in writing from Steve Cole. It seems that the ZRC is depending on Sam Phelan's input exclusively.

2. Changing Meeting Date to Accommodate Maryanne Johnson's schedule: After discussion, it would be possible for most members to be in attendance on Wednesdays. They will try it at a future meeting.

3. Hook Trail: *Linda Keeling* reported that there was a presentation to the town board by the Hook Trails representatives: Robert George & Bryan Roberts. They will be posting their map on line soon. The Ag Committee might be interested as it deals with open space.

4. Red Hook Farm List Update: *Linda Keeling* suggested that the Farm List be updated and distributed locally as local citizens were pleased to have the information. All agreed it would be a good follow-up activity since the town's Bicentennial Celebration of 2012.

5. Other Business: General discussion

a. **Inheritance Tax:** There was some discussion regarding the NYS Inheritance Tax of one million dollars as compared to the federal amount of five million dollars. It was felt that the NYS limit should be raised as a farm operation can easily go over that amount.

b. **Poultry Law:** Rich Biezynski brought up this law for discussion because of the issue in Rhinebeck being considered recently in their village.

Motion: *Marina Michahelles* motioned to adjourn the meeting, *John Hardeman* seconded, all agreed.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7: 40 pm.

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting will be **Tuesday, October 28, 2014 at 7 pm**. If the chairmen agree, it may be on Wed. Oct. 29th.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda J. Keeling, AOSC Secretary
APPROVED 3/14/15