

# **Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board Meeting**

## **September 18, 2019**

### **Meeting Minutes**

Ag Board members present: J. Hoeffner, L. DeBuck, D. Church, P. Johnson, M. Simpson, D. Smith, S. Soons, M. Ullrich, J. Wright.

Guests present: K. Apostolides – OC Farm Market Coordinator, V. Kasinski – Newburgh Urban Farm and Food Initiative (NUFFI), N. Lartey – Cornell Cooperative Extension, R. Schreibeis – OC Executive’s Office, K. Sumner – OC Soil & Water.

Call to order – 5:15 pm.

#### **July Minutes**

General discussion ensued about the July minutes. J. Wright moved to accept the July minutes as presented, L. DeBuck seconded, unanimously approved.

#### **Summary of Accounts**

General discussion ensued about the summary of accounts. J. Wright moved to accept the ledger as presented, P. Johnson seconded, unanimously approved.

#### **Introduction of Guests**

J. Hoeffner requested that visitors present themselves and their reason for attending the meeting. V. Kasinski presented the AFPB members with invitations to the Newburgh Urban Farming Initiative / Downing Park Farm Community Appreciation Day that will take place on October 12. She also wanted to thank the Board members for their support over the years. No action taken at this time.

#### **Inquiries & Correspondence**

The Ag Board received multiple correspondences. The Ag Board received a letter from the Orange County Legislature appointing Phil Johnson to the Ag Board. It also received several letters from the New York State Department of Ag & Markets for NOI’s for some solar installations, including Clean Energy Collective’s Middletown, NY 1, LLC; Clean Energy Collective’s Middletown, NY 2, LLC; Clean Energy Collective’s Westtown, NY 2, LLC; Clean Energy Collective’s Walden, NY 1, LLC; South Goshen Solar, LLC; and a proposed 1.3 MW solar photovoltaic system in the Town of Warwick. The Ag Board also received a letter from the New York State Department of Ag & Markets regarding “The Town of Wallkill’s Zoning Code and its Application to Maplewood Warmbloods.” Finally, the Ag Board received a letter from the New York State Department of Ag & Markets certifying the inclusion of the properties proposed to be included in the Orange County Agricultural Districts. General discussion ensued and the Ag Board members agreed to only take action if a specific request for comment is made related to the above letters. No action taken at this time.

#### **New Business**

##### **Meeting with Legislators**

Discussion ensued about the meeting with the legislators that was held on September 16. The feedback from this event was generally positive. The attendees thought that the meeting was productive and that it should be repeated in 2020. No further action taken at this time.

## Extended Big Game Hunting Season

Discussion turned to extending the big game hunting season. L. DeBuck suggested that the DEC extend the hunting season through the first week of January to help address the high deer population. The DEC should also increase the number of hunting tags allowed and not restrict the feeding of wildlife to help control the deer population. L. DeBuck will draft a resolution stating the above to present to the Farm Bureau to include in its legislative suggestions at the annual meeting in October and to present to R. Schreibeis to send to the Orange County Sportsmen's Club. No further action taken at this time.

## Old Business

### Ag Plan Implementation Update – Priority Project 7

Discussion then ensued about the implementation of Priority Project 7 of the ag plan. N. Lartey presented the updates related to Priority Project 7. He discussed the training and technical assistance provided by Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) to new farmers covering soil assessments, finance, marketing, GAP and FSMA. General discussion ensued. No action taken.

## Other Business

### Solar Array Policy

Discussion then turned to the Ag Board's solar array location policy. K. Sumner stated that he will look into which towns have adopted this policy and how the policy was applied according to what he could find online through the towns' eCode. The policy was adopted with a great degree of variety among the towns. It was suggested that this could be included in the farm-friendly audit when it is conducted. No further action taken at this time.

### Retired Board Members

J. Wright mentioned that he would like to have the Ag Board present a thank you to the retired board members. The Ag Board members agreed to recognize their service at a legislative session. D. Church and R. Schreibeis will find out what has been done in the past and do the same thing for all recently retired board members. No further action taken at this time.

### Bountiful Harvest Dinner

M. Ullrich reminded everyone about Cornell Cooperative's Bountiful Harvest Dinner and the milking contest taking place on September 21. No action taken.

Meeting adjourned: 7:00 pm.