

**Agricultural and Farmland
Protection Board Meeting
February 27, 2020**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairman Lawton called the meeting to order at 1:04 PM.
A. Introductions – Introductions were made. Ms. Jardine thanked everyone for coming.
- II. **ATTENDANCE**
A. Members: Elaine Jardine, Tim Lawton, Andy Fagan, John Lacey, Howard Visscher, Ed Hollenbeck, Terie Huseby, Lisa Bloodnick, Dale Weston, Ben Whittemore, Pam Moore
B. Megan Griffiths
C. Guests:
D. Not in attendance:
E. Jardine thanked everyone for coming today and introduced Megan Griffiths, EDP’s new Agricultural Development Specialist.
- III. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Chair Lawton asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Legislator Weston made the motion to approve the agenda; Ms. Bloodnick seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- IV. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** – Chair Lawton allowed a few minutes for everybody to look over the minutes, then asked for a motion to approve the following minutes:
A. February 27, 2019 - Mr. Visscher made the motion to approve the minutes; Pam Moore seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- V. **2020 ANNUAL AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT INCLUSIONS** – Megan Griffiths reported the following:
A. Two requests for inclusions came in:
 • Rebecca Rimmel, Brown Road, Town of Newark Valley
 • William Morse, Brown Road, Town of Newark Valley
These two parcels will add 110.8 acres to Tioga County’s Agricultural District #3, North Tioga. Megan Griffiths went through packet of materials for these inclusion requests with the Board members.

Legislator Hollenbeck asked if these two parcels have the same owner. E. Jardine answered the owners are together, but not legally tied. Legislator Weston asked if the land was active agriculture. Megan Griffiths answered yes. Mr. Visscher asked what type of farm it is. L. Bloodnick answered it was mixed vegetables, poultry and other small meats. P. Moore asked about the name of the farm. L. Bloodnick answered Bottom Land Farm.

Elaine Jardine added that the County Legislature already held the public hearing and no comments were heard.

Chair Lawton asked for a motion to approve Resolution #1 of 2020 to Recommend Adoption of the Plan to Revise the Existing North Tioga Agricultural District #3. Lisa Bloodnick made the motion to approve the resolution; Ms. Huseby seconded the motion. All were in favor. Mr. Lawton signed the resolution. T. Huseby noted that the year in the County Legislature draft resolution needed to be changed from -19 to -20.

VI. EIGHT YEAR AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT REVIEWS –

Megan Griffiths reported that Tioga County has two NYS Agricultural Districts up for their eight-year review this year, scheduled one month apart from each other. Owego-Nichols (#2) starts first, followed by Spencer (#1 - Spencer, Barton, Candor and Tioga). The Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board will have to meet in the beginning of August and again near the beginning of September to make recommendations to the County Legislature on the agricultural districts modifications.

Elaine Jardine reported that we have not experienced many requests for the removal of land from the NYS AD program. One request for removal of significance in the past was Cotton Hanlon in Spencer and Candor. They removed a significant amount of acreage. Discussion ensued regarding if the some of their land had been purchased and if the new owners should be approached about re-including the land. Elaine will work with T. Huseby on this to ensure EDP will send the new owners notification letters.

VII. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE GROUP ACTIVITY – Megan Griffiths reported the latest major ARG projects:

- Sundaes at the Farm is scheduled for around July 19. Other Board members stated that the location was the Spencer Farm on West Creek Road
- Frank Wiles is retiring and therefore closing his Our Green Acres business. Howard Visscher stated the he auctioning off their equipment soon. Megan stated this will have a significant impact on the Owego Farmers' Market.
- The Delivered Fresh mobile and on-line food hub owner, David Nowacoski, held a meeting earlier this month with about 20 interested producers. The project is still in its infancy stage, but it looks positive.

VIII. TOWN OF CANDOR Feb 11 FARM / BUILDING CODE MEETING – Elaine Jardine reported the following:

The Town of Candor Code Enforcement Officer did not realize that farm and agricultural buildings were exempt from NYS Building and required farmers to complete building permit for new farm buildings retroactively. The Candor Town Board held this work session meeting prior to a regular Board meeting, to discuss this issue. The Candor CEO now knows that agricultural buildings are exempt, and he should not be requiring building permits. The Candor Town Board will not be changing their local building code and they will operate as is.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR –

Andy Fagan reported that CCE Tioga and Tioga County Tourism have been working jointly on a regional marketing project called Finger Lakes Farm Country, which encompasses the same geographic area as Finger Lakes Wine Country. A website has been developed to promote the effort, and various marketing collateral as well.

Lisa Bloodnick stated that her Bloodnick Family Farm is participating in a nationwide event called Slow Food Arc of Taste. Her farm will be a Trial Garden, she will host an associated to Table Dinner later this year. Her farm will also provide winter squash, tomatoes, peppers and lettuces for two Chef Tastings, one in the summer and one in the fall.

Andy Fagan announced that the Tioga County 2020 Fair dates will be August 11 – 15. Then entry fee will be \$10 per car. The Fair Board has been working to put on additional shows and make improvements to the fairgrounds.

Ben Whittemore stated that he has a new neighbor, and with that comes about 15 horses that keep entering his property. He has contacted the Tioga County Sheriff and the Town of Candor Code Enforcement Officer and neither provided an answer for him or could address the situation. Unfortunately, no one at the table had an answer or solution for him either.

Mr. Fagan announced that he is leaving employment of CCE Tioga on June 30. Recruitment is beginning for a new Director. The new Director will be full time for Tioga County only. He will stay a bit longer at CCE Chemung.

XII. ADJOURNMENT - With no further discussion, Chair Lawton asked for a motion to adjourn. Legislator Hollenbeck made the motion to adjourn and Terie Huseby seconded the motion. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 2:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Jardine
County Planning Director, Economic Development & Planning