



Schuyler County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board

105 Ninth Street, Unit 39, Watkins Glen, NY 14891

Tel: (607) 535-8211

May 10, 2021
Human Services Complex

Call to Order:

Present: Michael Bergen, Brett Chedzoy, Walter Adam, Michael Lausell, Johnathan Wasson,
Jerry Verrigni,
Staff: Kristin VanHorn
Public: None
Excused: Rory Miller, Dan Teed
Absent: Ben Rawleigh, Tom Bloodgood

Meeting Called to order at 6:04 p.m.

Acceptance of Minutes: Mike Bergen, seconded by Walter Adam. All in favor vote

Election of Officers for 2021

- Chair: Dan Teed
 - Motion made by Mike Bergen, seconded by Johnathan Wasson. *All in favor vote. Motion passed*
- Vice-Chair: Walter Adam
 - Motion made by Mike Bergen, seconded by Johnathan Wasson. *All in favor vote. Motion passed*
- Secretary: Kristin VanHorn
 - Motion made by Mike Bergen, seconded by Johnathan Wasson. *All in favor vote. Motion passed*

Old Business

1. Ag and Farmland Protection Plan
 - a. Kristin provided a presentation outlining the background/ purpose of the plan, the plan vision, and goals as well as the recommended strategies and implementations.
 - b. Walter asked about pushback from solar developers and the options to the inclusion of sheep grazing within the developments.
 - c. There was a discussion about the need for slaughterhouses and if the AFPB and the Ag Protection Plan should be pushing harder for them.
 - i. 2020 really exposed the weaknesses of the industry and has put a strain on the existing business.
 - d. Michael Lausell made a motion to recommend approval of the Ag and Farmland Protection Plan by the Schuyler County Legislature, seconded by Mike Bergen. *All in favor vote. Motion passed.*

New Business

1. Meeting Schedule
 - Move to a quarterly meeting schedule.
2. Development Pressure
 - A discussion was had about solar farms, single-family home development, and the impact on agriculture.
 - It would be helpful to look at innovative ways to create incentives or disincentives within Towns and the County to keep active farmland in production.
 - Could look into model regulations or mitigation measures the towns could adopt.
 - Potentially develop a one-page information page that could be attached to the building permit or ag assessment mailings.

Other:

1. Farm Bureau – No Updates
2. CCE – Gearing up for some pasture and forest walks.
 - a. Organizing a 2-day silvopasture tour post-COVID.
3. Soil and Water: Completed 65 projects over the last 6 months. They also worked on updating the AEM.

Motion to Adjourn made by Mike Bergen seconded by Johnathan Wasson at 7:06 pm