

Knox Agricultural Advisory Committee
Meeting of October 16th, 2019
Knox Town Hall

Summary

Members present: Jay Francis, Jessica Gaige, Joshua Rockwood, Ken Saddlemire

Members absent: Betty Ketcham, Brian Wilson

Convene

Old business

Hog & Swine Farming Update

SEQR Requirement

Farm Transition Workshop

Update on where we are

Getting the word out

Logistics – need AAC members to help

Guidelines for livestock management

Need someone(s) to take this on

New business

Making sure people moving to an ag district know what to expect

Comments and discussion

Adjourn

Old business

Hog & Swine Farming Update – Gary Kleppel that he and Ken Saddlemire are in the process of preparing the SEQR for amendment of the town zoning ordinance to treat hog farming with agricultural districts the same as the farming of any other livestock. The town board will consider the SEQR at its next meeting.

Guidelines for livestock management – Joshua Rockwood provided a copy of the guidelines for farmers compiled by Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE). He will contact CCE to obtain an electronic copy of the document and we will post it on our page on the town's website.

Farm Transition Workshop – The committee voted to hold the workshop on Saturday, February 8th, 2020 (we need to select start/end times). Organizations and individuals committed to make presentations – American Farmland Trust, Cornell Cooperative Extension, NY State Department of Agriculture and Markets (Commissioner of Ag & Markets, NYS Farmland Protection Program), National Young Farmers Coalition, Sandy Gordon & Joshua Rockwood, Local Farms Fund, Farm Credit East. Getting the word out – Amy Pokorny will contact the Enterprise to let them know about the event; Gary Kleppel will reach out to the Times Union and ask them to send a reporter. CCE and National Young Farmers Coalition will send our announcements to their mailing lists. Logistics – Jessica Gaige and Gary Kleppel will develop an agenda and schedule for the workshop. Jessica will create a flyer to post and distribute. Gary will ask CCE if they will handle registration (limit to 80 participants + speakers). Ken will look into feeding participants. We will ask Earl Barkum to contact BKW and let the Future Farmers of America club know about the workshop. Gary will contact SUNY Cobleskill to let them know about the workshop.

New Business – The committee discussed the issue of informing people moving into an agricultural district about the allowed uses in the district, and ensuring they understand that these uses might not be pleasant for the landowner who might otherwise live in a residential district. Jay Francis made the committee aware of NYS Real Property Law (Article 9) Section 333-C, which requires that realtors inform potential buyers about the uses allowed in agricultural districts. The committee needs to discuss this issue and determine how to move forward with it.

Comments and discussion – The question of setbacks of fences from the road was discussed. At the October town board meeting Robert Price proposed 20 feet from the edge of the road. It was decided that the AAC will look into this issue.