

Knox Agricultural Advisory Committee
Meeting of November 20th, 2019
Knox Town Hall

Summary

Members present: Jay Francis, Gary Kleppel, Joshua Rockwood, Ken Saddlemire, Brian Wilson
Members absent: Jessica Gaige, Betty Ketcham

Convene

Old business

Hog & Swine Farming SEQR Update

Farm Transition Workshop

Update on where we are

Creating a flyer

Logistics – need AAC members to help

Guidelines for livestock management

Making sure people moving to an ag district know what

to expect – Should we bring this up with the Town Board

Comments and discussion

Adjourn

Old business

Hog & Swine Farming SEQR Update – Gary Kleppel explained to the committee that he was working with the town attorney to complete Part 2 of the Hog Farm SEQR. The SEQR will be submitted to the Town Board for approval. Part 3 will be filled out by the Board and then submitted to the Albany County Planning Board for approval, after which (I think) the town will hold a final hearing and a vote on the amendment.

Farm Transition Workshop - Update on where we are: Ken Saddlemire reported that he had requested \$250-\$300 from the Town Board to cover costs incurred for the Workshop. The Board approved \$250 for food and transportation. Creating a flyer: It was suggested that the flyer be posted as a post card. Logistics: The committee asked that we contact SUNY Cobleskill (Jason Evans) to ask him to inform his faculty and students about the Workshop (G. Kleppel will do that).

Guidelines for livestock management - Joshua Rockwood told the committee that he will look into getting an e-copy of CCE's Guidelines for Farmers for posting on the AAC Home Page.

What to expect in an ag district – The AAC asked Gary Kleppel to discuss RP Law 333-c with the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets, particularly how to make realtors comply with the rule to alert clients potentially purchasing property in an ag district about the laws and limitations associated with ag districts. Ken Saddlemire noted that he will try to make Town Board members aware of this.

Comments and discussion - Ken Saddlemire visited FSA and reported on some of the resources from that agency. He provided a copy of the FSA Newsletter for posting on the AAC page of the town's website. He also alerted the committee about funds available to help apiarists with colony failure costs and a program for pig farmers. He asked that these be sent to the Town Clerk for posting.