

LAND PRESERVATION COMMITTEE MINUTES

APRIL 2, 2007 – 4:00 P.M.

Present: Chairman Peck; Supervisors A. Johnson, Sausville and Keyrouze; Tom Lewis, Lynn Schumann, At-Large; Jaclyn Hakes, Diane Metz, Lisa Nagle, Julia Stokes, Saratoga PLAN; Jason Kemper, Jaime O'Neill, Planning; Press.

Chairman Peck called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

Mr. Peck said one of the best and most economical ways to preserve open space is projection of farmland. He recommended eliminating the cap on the farmland protection projects and try to do them within the county with a 90% cap, so that the individual project would be able to seek outside financing as well.

Mr. Peck asked the question, should the county be awarding grants to towns? There are some towns in the county that have full planning staffs bigger than the county planning staff and then there are some towns that have one man shops that do zoning, planning, enforcement etc., that would need this expertise.

Mr. Peck said there is \$500,000 in grant applications this year. In the last two years the applications have not been maxed out, he said.

Mrs. O'Neill said the Ag and Markets is working on a planning grant that they intend to release by early summer. Ag and Markets has set aside \$800,000 for planning grants across the State on a first come first served basis. They are targeting communities that want agriculturally exempt development and farmland protection plans at the local level.

Mrs. O'Neill said, John Brennan from the Dept. of Ag and Markets said he would be willing to come to Saratoga County to conduct an informational meeting for Supervisors, Planning Boards, Farmland Protection Board, etc.

Mr. Peck said he would like to see a grant application deadline of July 31, 2007 with an October announcement of awards.

The committee agreed that this year's applications would also allow two towns to apply jointly for a project, with each town qualifying for the \$100,000 application maximum.

On a motion made by Mr. Sausville, seconded by Ms. Schumann the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Sansom