



# Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

February 13, 2017 - Ossian Town Hall  
5:00pm-6:30pm

## Attendees

- **Advisory Committee Members:** Tom Depuy, Dwight Knapp, David Mark, Chris Pero, Tony Scavone, Mary Scharmbery, Joe Swyers, Michelle Vanderbosch, John Vanheusen, Dave Walker, Jesse Weidman
- **Consultants/Support:** Sheila Hess (CC Environment & Planning), Nathan Rudgers (Farm Credit East), Heather Ferrero (Livingston County Planning)

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1. The purpose of the Town of Ossian Ag & Farmland Protection Advisory Committee Meeting was to introduce the Advisory Committee to planning consultants, review the planning process, grant requirements, and discuss public engagement.
  2. Sheila Hess, CC Environment & Planning provided an overview of the planning process, scope of services and schedule, reviewed grant requirements, led a visioning exercise, reviewed a draft plan outline and resource maps.
  3. Nathan Rudgers, Farm Credit East, provided an overview of the public engagement strategy and public informational meeting structure with a request for Advisory Committee members to provide a list of specific stakeholders they feel should be contacted during the planning process.
  4. The following page provides bulleted items that capture comments, ideas, suggestions and action items that were discussed during the meeting.



### ACTION ITEMS

1. Email meeting notes and materials including links to example plans to Advisory Committee – Planning Team
2. Check availability of spatial data to inform agricultural land use mapping – Planning Team
3. Plan/prepare for Public Informational Meeting – Monday, March 6th at 7pm, Town Hall
  - a. Develop agenda/meeting format for public informational meeting for committee review and approval – Planning Team
  - b. Develop newsletter/flyer to send to residents inviting them to the public meeting – Advisory Committee
4. Develop list of stakeholders to be interviewed (phone or meeting) during the planning process for review and edit by Advisory Committee – Planning Team.
5. Post planning materials on the Town website – Advisory Committee

### SUMMARY

1. Plan should be sensitive to landowner rights, not restrictive.
2. Ag & Markets interested in knowing what the Town of Ossian is anticipating could happen to agriculture, how it could evolve, and priorities/priority map.
3. Roles and Responsibilities: Planning team will coordinate all aspects of plan development and develop the plan. Advisory Committee will commit to timely review of materials and documents to assist in keeping the planning process on schedule.
4. The following maps were shared with the committee and several comments and edits were provided during and after the meeting
  - a. Basemap – aerial photo with parcel boundaries
  - b. Environmental – wetlands, streams, forest lands, steep slopes
  - c. Existing Land Use
  - d. Ag and Rural Residential – property classifications
  - e. Soils – prime and statewide importance



5. Visioning exercise comments – Agriculture in the Town of Ossian:
  - a. Changing – technology, society, demands
  - b. Town ag is keeping up with new farming methods
  - c. Less participation, bigger operations
  - d. Town's sole industry
  - e. Beautiful, rural, keep it
  - f. More crops now, less dairy
  - g. People like it here, maintain and improve it
  - h. Need to consider neighbors and residents regarding ag practices
  - i. Need farming to keep the community strong
  - j. Highly productive farmland adjacent to large state forest, unique opportunities and challenges
  - k. Diverse, important
  - l. Active economic driver
  - m. Highly regulated
  - n. Need ag folks on planning boards in towns
  - o. Need to protect neighbors and the environment
  - p. Food safety and educating the public is important
  
6. Public engagement comments:
  - a. Give and take process, not just information/education
  - b. Communicate that plan is to balance citizens best interest and agriculture needs
  - c. Public info meeting – explain what an enhancement plan is, purpose and outcomes
  - d. Get input on the vision, strengths and weaknesses
  - e. Get input on interests and observations in agriculture current and in the future
  - f. Get input on expectations about what should be in the plan
  - g. Explain that the purpose of the plan is to help agriculture and related infrastructure and utilities.