



Public Informational Meeting Summary

October 23, 2017 - Ossian Town Hall
7:00pm-8:30pm

Attendees

- **Advisory Committee Members:** Tom Depuy, Dwight Knapp, David Mark, Chris Pero, Tony Scavone, Mary Ann Scharmburg, John Vanheusen, Jesse Weidman
- **Consultants/Support:** Sheila Hess (CC Environment & Planning), Nathan Rudgers (Farm Credit East), Barbara Johnston (Labella), Heather Ferrero and Mary Underhill (Livingston County Planning)
- **Community:** Rhea Walker, Sheila Van Aukron, Linda Shay Scavone

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The purpose of the Town of Ossian Ag & Farmland Protection Public Informational Meeting was to present the draft Farmland Protection Plan report. This meeting was advertised in the paper and a notice was posted at the Town Hall and on the Town website. A hard copy of the draft plan was available for review at the Town Hall and online a week prior.

At 7:00PM, Dwight Knapp, Town Supervisor opened the meeting with welcome and introductions. Sheila Hess, CC Environment & Planning along with Nathan Rudgers, Farm Credit East and Barbara Johnston, Labella, spent 45 minutes walking through the contents of the draft plan using a PowerPoint presentation, printed maps, and a hard copy of the draft plan.

Following the presentation of the plan, the meeting was open for questions and discussion. There were a few questions and some reiteration of issues, opportunities, and concerns in the discussion period. Overall, the overwhelming response to the draft plan was supportive. The meeting adjourned at 8:30PM. The following bulleted list summarizes discussion topics.



1. Tax issue was raised in terms of the increasing cost of taxes, ag exemptions, and concern over tax rate for non-farming residents.
2. Planning team reviewed the purpose and importance of ag exemptions which are available to those meeting criteria PL480a was also reviewed as another tax relief program for those that meet criteria for managed woodlands.
3. The recommendations around the definition of agriculture and more specific definitions needed in code was discussed, the members of the Town agreed this is needed. Planning team discussed the state-level ag definition and how some Towns choose to provide additional detail to provide additional protection beyond state definition.
4. Town members agree they need updated zoning.
5. Concern expressed regarding use of “semi” trucks to haul manure and how fast they drive on roads and what can be done? Planning team discussed existing traffic laws, enforcement of speed limits, and importance of communication between farmers and neighbors about timing of spreading large fields.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Additional comments can be provided until November 3.
2. Updated plan will be provided to the County Ag & Farmland Protection Board for review and the Nov 16th meeting.
3. A public hearing will be conducted by the Town on November 14th.

SCHEDULE

- November 8: Final Draft of plan to Town, County Ag Board, and NYSDAM
- November 14: Town Public Hearing
- November 16: County Ag Board Meeting/Approval
- December 12: Town Board Meeting/Adoption