



AGRICULTURAL & FARMLAND PROTECTION COMMITTEE

North Lansing Fire Station
Thursday, January 19, 2023
8:00 AM

AGENDA

- 1. Call Meeting to Order**
- 2. Work Session**
 - a. Welcome New and Returning Members
 - b. 2015 Ag Plan Goals and Strategies Review
- 3. Department Reports**
 - a. Town Board Liaison Report

- 4. Adjourn Meeting**

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, persons who need accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting should contact the Town Clerk's Office at 607-533-4142. Request should be made 72 hours prior to the meeting.

RESOLUTION 22-147

RESOLUTION AFFIRMING CHARGING DUTIES TO THE AGRICULTURE AND FARMLAND PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AND APPOINTING MEMBERS TO SUCH COMMITTEE

The following Resolution was duly presented for consideration by the Town Board:

WHEREAS, the Town of Lansing Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan was adopted via Resolution 15-101, on September 16, 2015, whereupon it was incorporated into the Town's comprehensive plan, and such plan calls for a permanent committee to follow-up on the goals, updates, and other agricultural plans set forth therein; and

WHEREAS, the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Committee (the "Committee") was initially created to develop a farmland protection plan pursuant to grant money awarded by NYSDAM and such committee had an informal existence until Resolution 17-46, adopted January 18, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Advisory Committee is officially reformed and will have 11 members (one of which is the Chairperson, and one of which is the Vice Chair), appointed for coincident 3-year terms; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Lansing has hereby RESOLVED as follows:

1. The Town hereby formally reaffirms the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Advisory Committee the "Committee"), as a perpetual, standing, citizens' advisory committee comprised of one Chairperson, one Vice Chair, and 9 other members, each and all as appointed by the Town Board (including vacancies), with each position being at the will of the Town Board. Membership upon the Committee is by appointment by the Town Board for 3-year terms running concurrently and commencing January 1, 2023, ending December 31, 2025. Any vacancy shall be filled for the remainder of the term by appointment by the Town Board. At least 4 members of the Committee shall be owners or substantially involved in the operation of a commercial farming enterprise located in the Town of Lansing that engages in the production, preparation, or marketing of fruits, vegetables, field crops, nursery stock, flowers, livestock or livestock products, including commercial horse boarding and breeding operations, Christmas tree farming, timber processing, the production of compost, mulch, or other biomass crops, woodland farm products, beekeeping or honey production. Members of the Committee may be removed at any time, with or without cause and for any or no reason, by resolution of the Town Board. Members of the Committee may resign or withdraw at any time, with or without cause, and for any or no reason, and an oral or written resignation shall be irrevocable once communicated to the Chairperson of the Committee, the Town Clerk, or the Town Supervisor.

2. The following persons be and hereby are appointed to the Committee for three-year terms expiring on December 31, 2025:

Connie Wilcox, Chairperson

John Fleming, Vice Chairperson
Adam Buck
Todd Eldred
James Hatfield
Christine Hass
Jeannine Kirby
Peter Larson III
Larry Moore
Steve Nedrow
Ken Patchen

The Chairperson of the Committee shall be appointed from time- to-time by the Town Board. In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice shall conduct meetings and other actions by and for the Committee.

3. The Committee shall pursue agricultural and farmland promotion and protection goals as outlined in NYS Agriculture and Markets Law Article 25-AAA, in the General Municipal and Town Laws, and as more specifically defined and proposed in the 2015 Town of Lansing Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan, as adopted in September, 2016. The Committee shall thus and also pursue the following purposes, goals, reviews, operations, recommendations, etc.:

- a. To advise the Town of Lansing regarding agricultural policy in the Town; to provide educational resources for sharing information among farmers and agriculturally-based businesses; and to educate Town residents and officials about farming and farmland issues.
- b. To provide regular input, comment, and analyses upon zoning, site planning, taxation, and other regulatory and mapping issues pertaining to agriculture, agricultural sales, and the development, transportation and marketing of agricultural and woodland goods and products in commerce in and through the Town; to serve as a clearinghouse for relations between farm operations and the Town Board, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Department, Code Enforcement Officers, and other officers and agencies of Town Government, including to provide a forum for concerns about Town policy, Town operations, or other matters relating to farming in the Town, including the making of referrals upon farm related subjects that may result in policy reviews, changes, or recommendations; to develop, promote, and encourage appropriate conservation strategies, best-practices, and sustainable agricultural practices and activities; and to review and advise upon private and public development and redevelopment projects, including the environmental reviews thereof, whenever requested by the Town Board or other agencies engaged in such reviews, with a specific focus and eye towards advising concerning the impact or potential future impacts upon agriculture, agricultural enterprises, and future agricultural opportunities and developmental plans within the Town of Lansing and surrounding areas and regions.
- c. To provide input for annual additions to the County Agricultural Districts and input upon the eight-year review of County Agricultural Districts; and to encourage and assist applications to farmland preservation programs and, when such applications are submitted, provide input into the review thereof.

- d. To examine and monitor trends in agriculture and local farming activity; to determine obstacles and fiscal issues and obstacles facing agricultural enterprises; to identify pressures upon agricultural lands and soils; to recommend reasonable and desirable plans and solutions to the Town to overcome or assist with the mitigation of such obstacles so as to preserve such lands and agricultural enterprises; to identify and promote direct marketing and commodity marketing opportunities for local farmers, expand value-added agricultural operations in the Town, and identify and promote methods whereby existing farmers can be encouraged to continue in active agricultural operation; and to assist in the connection between those interested in agricultural businesses and production and the location of available opportunities and lands within the Town of Lansing to fulfill such goals.
- e. To review, suggest updates to, and take the lead in developing recommendations relating to the Town's Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan; to recommend reasonable and desirable changes to this listing of responsibilities; to undertake other appropriate tasks requested by the Town Board; and to examine any other matters reasonably and directly related to the above tasks and goals.

4. The Committee shall meet at least twice annually at such times and locations as shall be set by the Chairperson. The Committee may meet more often or at regularly scheduled times and intervals as the Committee may decide. The Committee shall also hold at least one meeting a year to which the general public and members of the local farming community are invited to attend as guests.

5. The Committee shall be a citizens' advisory committee and not a capital or other planning committee. The Committee shall keep required accurate records of its meetings and actions and file required annual reports with the Town Board on or before the Town's organizational meeting, yearly.

6. The Town Board, Planning Board, ZBA, and town staff and employees shall reasonably cooperate to provide data, information, and support to the Committee to assist it in the pursuit of the goals and purposes herein described. The Committee may request technical assistance and specialized advice from any resource it may deem appropriate, including but not limited to other local residents, the Tompkins County Departments of Planning or Assessment, the Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation Counsel, the Tompkins County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board, the Finger Lakes Land Trust, the American Farmland Trust, the Land Trust Alliance, the New York Agricultural Land Trust, the New York Planning Federation, the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization, and the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets.

7. The Town Board may adopt other rules of procedures for the Committee which, once adopted, shall be controlling. In the absence of the same the Committee may itself adopt such operational rules and procedures as it deems prudent for its operations. However, in limitation thereof and as a citizens' advisory committee, the Committee may not authorize any expenditure of Town funds or enter into any contract arrangements for payment of services. Funds necessary for proper committee operation or technical assistance may be requested by the Committee from the Town Board and, in accordance with customary procedures, the Town Board may authorize such funds,

approve the expenditure thereof, and execute contracts in support of approved expenditures. The Town Board may also, consistent with budgetary requirements and rules, provide budgetary funding for the Committee's use for paper, mailing, and like and related miscellaneous expenses relating to the work of the Committee.

The question of adoption of such proposed Resolution was duly motioned by Councilperson Joseph Wetmore, duly seconded by Councilperson Andra Benson, and put to a roll call vote with the following results:

- Councilperson Andra Benson – Aye
- Councilperson Bronwyn Losey – Aye
- Supervisor Edward LaVigne – Aye
- Councilperson Ruth Groff – Aye
- Councilperson Joseph Wetmore – Aye

Accordingly, the foregoing Resolution was approved, carried, and duly adopted on December 21, 2022.

Town of Lansing Agriculture & Farmland Protection Plan Implementation Chart Goals and Strategies to Preserve Farmland and Promote Agriculture

INCREASE COMMUNITY AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF AGRICULTURE'S BENEFITS			
	Recommendation	Implementation	Actors
Goal 1 - Increase general agriculture awareness and support for the Town's agriculture industry			
1-a	Town Right to Farm Law & State Ag District Law - education & outreach	HIGH - short term 1yr	TOL AC; CCETC
	Strengthen real estate property disclosure in Ag Districts (part of Ag District Law)	HIGH - Ongoing	TOL AC; CCETC; Board Realtors
1-b	Town website information about farming in the Town; Town newsletter articles	HIGH - short term 1yr	TOL; CCETC
1-c	Promote farm direct marketers and encourage residents to buy local	HIGH - short term 1yr	Farm retailers; TOL; CCETC
1-d	Road signage denoting when entering farming areas/ag zone	MEDIUM - short term 2yr	TOL HD
1-e	Data gathering about farming in town - economic impact, trends	MEDIUM - Ongoing	TOL; CCETC
1-f	Farm tours for Town officials, school staff, farm neighbors, youth, public	MEDIUM - Ongoing	TOL AC; CCETC
1-g	Classroom Education about farming/4-H ag clubs/ Community & School gardens	MEDIUM - Ongoing	LCSD; TOL AC; CCETC
CREATE A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR FARMING			
	Recommendation	Implementation	Actors
Goal 1 - Infrastructure/policies important to farming			
1-a	Maintenance of roads & bridges - for heavy ag vehicles	HIGH - Ongoing	TOL HD
1-b	Access to high speed internet	HIGH - short term 1yr	TOL
1-c	Review traffic/speed limits/signage in agriculture areas to improve safety	MEDIUM - Ongoing	TOL HD; Tompkins County
1-d	Trespass control	MEDIUM - Ongoing	TC Sheriff
1-e	Public utilities - municipal electric (wind, solar, hydro)	MEDIUM - long term	TOL
1-f	Policies that enable farm-based renewable energy development	MEDIUM - short term	TOL
Goal 2 - Limit non-farm development in agricultural areas			
2-a	County Agriculture District Law provisions/protection	HIGH - Ongoing	TOL AC/TC AFPB
2-b	Limit water & sewer extension into agricultural areas	HIGH - Ongoing	TOL AC/TC AFPB
2-c	Avoid development of prime and soils of statewide significance	HIGH - Ongoing	TOL/PB; TOL AC
2-d	Create a new Agriculture Zoning district in dominant ag areas	HIGH - short term 1yr	TOL/PB; TOL AC
Goal 3- Create incentives to direct development away from agricultural areas			
3-a	Sewer development- South Lansing/Town Center	Ongoing	TOL
3-b	Infill-density in South Lansing/Town Center (consider TDR)	HIGH - Ongoing	TOL/PB

3-c	Affordable housing in South Lansing/Town Center	HIGH - Ongoing	TOL/PB; Better Housing TC
3-d	Ensure stormwater regulations are followed to avoid farm field damage	HIGH - Ongoing	TOL/Zoning
3-e	Cost of services increases with scattered development - educate officials	MEDIUM - Ongoing	TOL AC; CCETC
Goal 4 - Tax policies that make owning farmland affordable			
4-a	Explore Town tax abatement through short term easements to keep land in ag	LOW - 3-5 yrs	TOL AC; County Assessment
4-b	Ensure fair farm property valuation practices by county assessment	MEDIUM - Ongoing	TOL AC; County Assessment
4-c	Recommend to State to cap Agricultural Ceiling Value increases & update formula	HIGH - short term 1yr	TOL AC; Farm Bureau
4-e	Educate farmers/rural landowners about Ag Assessment if not receiving	HIGH - Ongoing	TOL AC; CCETC
4-f	Educate farmers about NYS Farmers School Tax Credit if not receiving	HIGH - Ongoing	TOL AC; CCETC
PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE BEST FARMLAND AND ENCOURAGE ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP			
	Recommendation	Implementation	Actors
Goal 1 - Promote land stewardship to protect soil, water and environmental quality			
1-a	Encourage sustainable soil building farming practices	HIGH - Ongoing	TOL AC; CCETC; SWCD
1-b	Encourage farms to adopt/ follow nutrient management plans	HIGH - Ongoing	TOL AC; CCETC; SWCD
1-c	Make farmers aware of programs and funding to protect environmental quality	HIGH - Ongoing	TOL AC; CCETC; SWCD
Goal 2 - Protect the best land for farming			
2-a	Investigate options for short term easements (Lease Dev Rights)	MEDIUM - mid-term	TOL AC; CCETC; COUNTY PLD
2-b	Support town farmer applications for State PDR funding	HIGH - Ongoing	TOL AC; County Planning
2-c	Town co-hold easements on farms awarded State PDR funding	LOW - future	TOL
2-d	Investigate Town PDR program and means to fund	LOW - future	TOL
2-e	Educate landowners about benefits of renting/selling to town farmers	HIGH - Ongoing	TOL AC; CCETC
FARM FRIENDLY ZONING			
	Recommendation	Implementation	Actors
Goal 1 - Create an Agricultural zoning district that gives priority to farming and related enterprises			
1-a	Change most of the current RA district in North Lansing to a new AG zone	HIGH - short term 1yr	TOL; Planning/Zoning
1-b	Zoning laws should continue to permit ag commerce and related enterprises	HIGH - short term 1yr	TOL; Planning/Zoning

1-c	Allow smaller ag enterprises in R3, RA, and Ag zones (farm markets, ag tourism)	HIGH - Short term	TOL; Planning/Zoning
1-d	Ensure town staff (code/planning) are familiar with NYS Ag District Law	HIGH - Short term	TOL; Planning/Zoning
1-e	Ensure local zoning is not in conflict with NYS Ag District Law	HIGH - Ongoing	TOL; Planning/Zoning
1-f	Investigate zoning to cluster housing on poorer soil and maintain open farm land	MEDIUM - mid-term	TOL; Planning/Zoning
1-g	Require developers to maintain buffer between housing & farmland in ag zone	HIGH - short term	TOL; Planning/Zoning
1-h	Link Agriculture Plan with Comprehensive Plan ensuring common goals are met	HIGH - short term 1yr	TOL: Comp plan committee
STRENGTHEN THE FARM ECONOMY AND FUTURE VIABILITY OF FARMING			
	Recommendation	Implementation	Actors
Goal 1 - Strengthen the Farm Economy, Farm Viability and Agricultural Economic Development			
1-a	Deer management - list of hunters/places to hunt	HIGH - Ongoing	TOL AC; DEC
1-b	Farm energy conservation and renewable energy development	MEDIUM	TOL AC
1-c	Promote farm direct marketing opportunities and options	MEDIUM	TOL AC
1-d	Timber Sales based on forest management plans	HIGH - Ongoing	TOL AC; DEC
1-e	Landowner coalition to inform farmers about gas leasing decisions/options	HiGH - Ongoing	TOL AC; DEC; CCETC; FB
Goal 2- Encourage new farming enterprises - promote new opportunities			
2-a	Identify organic farming, specialty crop, niche marketing opportunities	MEDIUM - Ongoing	TOL AC; CCETC
2-b	Encourage cooperative ventures among farmers to reduce cost/secure markets	MEDIUM - based on demand	TOL AC; CCETC
2-c	Cooperative infrastructure (processing, marketing, storage, equipment, etc.)	MEDIUM - based on demand	TOL AC; CCETC
2-d	Link local farms and the Lansing School District	MEDIUM - based on demand	TOL AC; CCETC
2-e	More local food production for local consumption	MEDIUM - based on demand	TOL AC; CCETC
2-f	Grants & funding info for new business development (info on Town website)	MEDIUM - short term	TOL AC; CCETC
2-g	USDA slaughter facility space availability	MEDIUM - Ongoing	CCETC
Goal 3 -Future Farmers/Farm Labor			
3-a	Increase high school student/guidance counselor awareness of farm careers	HIGH - short term	TOL AC; LCSD
3-b	High school training/internship programs	HIGH - short term	TOL AC; LCSD
3-c	Farm Business transfer information/education	HIGH - Ongoing	TOL AC; CCETC
3-d	Farm job posting on Town website	MEDIUM - mid-term	TOL AC
3-e	Hispanic families - future on farms/in community	MEDIUM - Ongoing	TOL AC; CU Migrant Program

	List of abbreviations		
	TOL - Town of Lansing; AC - Ag committee; HD - Highway Dept.		
	CCETC - Cornell Cooperative Extension Tompkins County - Agriculture Program		
	TCSWCD - Tompkins County Soil & Water District		
	LCSD - Lansing Central School District		
	FB - Farm Bureau		
	DEC - NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation		