

SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING

The Special Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Cortlandville was held at the Raymond G. Thorpe Municipal Building, 3577 Terrace Road, Cortland, New York, with Supervisor Tupper presiding.

Members present:

Supervisor, Richard C. Tupper
Councilman, John C. Proud
Councilman, John P. Reynolds
Councilman, Douglas E. Withey
Town Clerk, Kristin E. Rocco-Petrella

Absent:

Councilman, Theodore V. Testa

Others present were: Amanda Barber, representing the Cortland County SWCD.

Supervisor Tupper called the Special Meeting to order for the sole purpose of holding a workshop to discuss the Draft Agricultural & Farmland Protection Plan for the Town of Cortlandville.

Councilman Proud led the workshop for the Draft Agriculture & Farmland Protection Plan. He referred to the vision of the Plan and stressed the importance of character within its scope. *"The Town of Cortlandville recognizes the key role agricultural operations play in the local economy and the overall character of the Town. The Town will proactively protect and promote agriculture lands and farm operations and businesses for both existing and future generations. The Town will balance development to respect, protect and preserve farms and meet the needs of residents, property owners and businesses."* He also noted that although Cortlandville has an agricultural zoning classification, it does not zone for agriculture, which is not conducive to promoting agriculture.

The topic was outlined using five key goals. 1. Educate the community on the strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities associated with farming and agriculture in Cortlandville. 2. Establish an agricultural advisory committee to engage the farming and non-farming community and other key stakeholders in the implementation process for the plan recommendations. 3. Protect local farmland resources from loss due to abandonment, fragmentation by development and conversion to other uses. 4. Identify strategies and specific actions that are necessary to enhance agriculture and achieve farmland protection goals and objectives in Cortlandville through voluntary programs. 5. Enhance economic development opportunities that support agricultural businesses and farming support activities. Also intently considered were three scenarios in determining an acceptable level of development: no action, Development Buffers and East West. The committee deliberated on many elements including, establishing an agricultural advisory committee, forever farmlands, Purchase Development rights (PDR) and Farmland and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP). There was strong emphasis placed on buffers and its definition. Amanda Barber offered advisement and contributed valuable suggestions.

Supervisor Tupper indicated that a Public Hearing should be scheduled and the Plan should be sent to Town and County Planning Boards. It was established that the items should be placed on the agenda for the next Town Board meeting. Ms. Barber recommended the committee reach out to the individuals that responded to the survey for the plan to share insight at the Public Hearing. In conclusion, Councilman Proud urged the Board concentrate on Chapters 3 and 4 of the Draft Agriculture & Farmland Protection Plan. He anticipated one or more workshops to be held by the Board.

No further comments or discussion were heard.

Councilman Proud made a motion, seconded by Councilman Withey, to adjourn the Special Meeting. All voting aye, the motion was carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin E. Rocco-Petrella

Kristin E. Rocco-Petrella, RMC
Town Clerk
Town of Cortlandville

*Note:

The final version of this meeting was submitted to the Town Board for their review on April 12, 2018.
The final version of this meeting was approved as written at the Town Board meeting of April 18, 2018.