

**Town of Bethlehem
Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan
Study Advisory Committee Meeting**



SUMMARY OF MEETING September 21, 2009
Bethlehem Town Hall Room 101 – 7:00 PM

Attendance

Members:

Tom Gallagher, George Leveille, Nancy Neff, Giles Wagoner

Staff/Consultants:

Robert Leslie (Town), Deborah Kitchen (Town), Liz Brock (AFT)

Public:

Christine Dushek, Linda Jasinski, John Mead, Tom Newell, Michael Waldenmaier

Meeting Materials Distributed

06/15/09 Summary - Ag. & Farmland Protection Plan Advisory Committee Meeting

08/05/09 Summary - Town of Bethlehem Public Meeting Comments

09/09/09 Summary - Albany County Ag. & Farmland Protection Board Comments

08/12/09 Response - Albany County Comments

Meeting Summary

The June 15, 2009 meeting summary was discussed and approved. It will be posted on the Town's website.

Purpose of Meeting

Possible action on Town of Bethlehem Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan

Discussion

Changes from the Draft Plan that are to be reflected in the Final Plan include the following:

- Pass a Town resolution in support of the Albany County Right to Farm Law to replace the recommendation to develop and adopt a separate Town of Bethlehem Right to Farm Law
- Work with Albany County to help update the County's Albany County Bounty farm guide to replace the recommendation to develop a separate Town of Bethlehem farm guide
- Provide discussion of Land Capability Classification soils
- Update 2007 Census of Agriculture data for Bethlehem
- Provide discussion of the importance of rental lands for agriculture
- Provide summary of August public meeting

The Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan will be updated based on the comments received at the meeting. Copies of the revised Plan will be distributed electronically to AFPP committee members for final review and approval.

The committee members in attendance at the meeting gave their consent to present the final draft to the Town Board.

Follow-up

Update and distribute Plan to members for final review and approval.

Submit Plan to the Town Board.

Upcoming Meetings

- October 14, 2009, Town Board Meeting - CACC to present final draft Open Space Needs & Opportunities Report.
- November 2009, Town Board Meeting - AFPP to present final draft Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan.

Respectfully submitted: Deborah Kitchen