

ONTARIO COUNTY  
Agricultural Enhancement Board

MEETING MINUTES: MARCH 20, 2018

Acting Chairman Fred Lightfoote

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Supervisor Fred Lightfoot  
Erin Bullock  
Jason Weykman  
Tucker Kautz – for SWCD Megan Webster  
Maria Rudzinski – for OCPD Tom Harvey  
Robert McCarthy  
Tim Davis, CCE  
Robin Johnson, OCRPT  
Elizabeth Newbold

**Staff:**

Marie Anselm, CCE

**Call to Order:** Chairman Lightfoote called the Agricultural Enhancement Board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Minutes:**

January 23, 2018 meeting minutes were reviewed.

**Motion to approve the made by:** Robin Johnson. **Seconded by** Tim Davis. Motion carried.

**Update on Board Nominations**

M. Anselm reported that there were three candidates for the two open board positions, Ben Lowe, farmer who operates a tree nursery in Bristol with distribution facility in Naples, Frank Fessner, farmer with beef operation in Town of E. Bloomfield, and Sam Casella, farmer in Town of Canandaigua. F. Lightfoote also noted that John Zimmerman, Mennonite farmer in Town of Gorham, is interested in the position.

The Board discussed the potential candidates giving consideration to the desirability for members representing a diversity of types and sizes of farming operations and geographic location. Based on those considerations, the Board recommended that invitations be extended in the following order: Ben Lowe, John Zimmerman, Frank Fessner, and Sam Casella.

**Motion to extend the invitations in said order: Made by:** M. Rudzinski **Seconded:** Robin Johnson

M. Anselm will follow up with the candidates.

**Consideration of Public Comments on the Draft Agricultural Enhancement Plan**

M. Rudzinski prepared a summary table of all public comments received on the draft Agricultural Enhancement Plan. This included comments received at the February 26, 2018 public information meeting and open house, written submissions, and the March 8, 2018 public hearing before the OC Board of Supervisors.

The Board reviewed each comment and came to consensus on the changes that should be made to the draft plan.

**Kickoff Implementation Team Meeting**

Due to the length of this meeting's agenda, the Board postponed this item until the next meeting.

**Town of Geneva Agriculture & Farmland Protection Plan Review**

Comments on the draft Town of Geneva plan had been provided in 2017. The Town had made the recommended changes and the town board has taken action to approve the plan. The AEB's recommendation of approval is required by NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSDAM) and is therefore before the Board.

**Motion to recommend approval of the Town of Geneva’s Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan: Made by: M. Rudzinski Seconded: M. Anselm. Motion carried.**

**Agency Reports:**

**CCE:** Upcoming programs include Agritourism, Agriculture Career Day, Small Beginning Farms, and Household Hazardous Waste. The Master Gardener program is gearing up. A progressive agricultural safety day is scheduled for the Fall, 2018. A precision agricultural specialist has been hired.

**SWCD:** Climate Resilient Farming Grant Phase 2 for the Finger Lakes Watershed was submitted. The non-point grant solicitation has not been released for the spring.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria Rudzinski, Senior Planner