

ONTARIO COUNTY Agricultural Enhancement Board

MEETING MINUTES: August 20, 2019

Chairman Fred Lightfoote

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Pilar McKay – for CCEOC Tim Davis
Maria Rudzinski – for OCPD Tom Harvey
Frank Fessner
Katie Lafler – for OCSWCD Megan Webster

Members Excused:

Fred Lightfoote
Tim Davis, CCE
Robert McCarthy
Erin Bullock
Robin Johnson, OCRPT

Call to Order: In Sup. Lightfoote’s absence, M. Rudzinski called the meeting to order.

April 2, 2019 Minutes:

No action could be taken on the April 2, 2019 minutes due to lack of quorum.

Board Vacancy Update: Sup. Lightfoote is still working on recruiting a farmer from the Mennonite community. No other outreach had been initiated.

NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets (NYS DAM – Final Notice of Intent – Expansion of Happiness House – Town of Canandaigua Ontario County Agricultural District 1

- M. Rudzinski reviewed the project. Finger Lakes United Cerebral Palsy, Inc. (“FLUCP”) proposes new construction of a two story building containing twenty (22) dwelling units, a community room and office space, and a one story building containing eight (8) units on approximately 30.2+/- acres located on the southwest corner of County Road 30 and Outhouse Road in the Town of Canandaigua. Land has been out of agricultural production for over 20 years.

Due to lack of a quorum, no action was taken by the Board. The Board members present supported the project. M. Rudzinski was directed to send a letter indicating that the Board supported the project to the members not present and ask for their approval or disapproval of the response. If approved, Chairman Lightfoote would sign the letter and it would be sent to NYS DAM.

Letter of Support for Genesee Land Trust NYS DAM Option Agreement Application for Round 15 Farmland Protection Implementation Grants (FPIG) Application to fund option agreements on five parcels totaling 434 acre.

PRINT_KEY	Town	OWNER	ACRES
56.02-1-3.000	Canandaigua	Gerlock, Charles L	61
43.00-1-35.200	Farmington	Gerlock, Robert C	29
43.00-1-35.111	Farmington	Gerlock, Robert C	151
43.00-1-41.100	Farmington	Gerlock, Robert C	36
43.00-1-35.120	Farmington	Gerlock, Robert C	157

M. Rudzinski explained that Genesee Land Trust has been working with the Gerlock Family on a farmland protection plan for their farm. They are interested in participating in the NYS Farmland Protection Implementation Grant Program (Purchase of Development Right Grant) but funding will not be available until 2020. The option agreement would be an important tool to help the family continue with their plan to protect their land.

Due to lack of a quorum, no action was taken by the Board. The Board members present supported the application. M. Rudzinski was directed to send a letter indicating that the Board supported the application to the members not present and ask for their approval or disapproval of the response. If approved, Chairman Lightfoote would sign the letter and it would be sent to NYS DAM.

Update: Agricultural Enhancement Plan Implementation Projects

Project Sponsor	2019 Agricultural Plan Implementation Projects	Status
Geneva City School District	Development of Agricultural Education Program for GCSD	Working on establishing the FFA. Organizing field trips for the students.
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County	Adult Tractor & Farm Safety Educational Programs	Due to time constraints, this project's contract will be carried over until June, 2020.
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County	Update of Ontario County's Finger Lakes Agricultural Website	Retained consultant to update the fingerlakesagriculture.com website who could not complete the project. The contract will be carried over until June 2020.
Finger Lakes Land Trust	Farmland Owner Land Protection Training Workshops	Workshop dates have been set: Dec. 9 and 16, January 6 & 13. The contract will be extended until June 2020.
Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District	Educational Activities to Promote Healthy Soils/Ag Practices	Soil Health Workshop held in March. Will order signs for landowners planting cover crops as a conservation measure.
Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District	Agricultural Tire Clean-Up Project	Summer/fall project

Solicitation for 2020 Agricultural Implementation Projects (FY 2019 - \$5,000)

The Board discussed how we should solicit grant applications for the \$5,000 that is in the 2019 budget. Since this is a smaller amount of money than last year's \$15,000, there were mixed feelings regarding soliciting applications.

Soliciting applications creates more awareness of agriculture and supports start up efforts like the Geneva City School District project. The downside is \$5,000 is a small amount of funding. Applications take time to prepare and evaluate. And, once awarded, take time to administer. An alternative discussed, was asking the agencies with current projects if they want to submit projects and not solicit applications.

M. Rudzinski said she would discuss this with Sup. Lightfoote and follow up with the Board via email to determine consensus on how to proceed.

Consolidation of Ontario County Agricultural Districts

Because of the late hour, discussion was postponed to another meeting.

Other Business/Agency Reports

P. McKay, CCEOC, distributed information on upcoming programs on the Mead Industry on September 10th, Beer Sensory Evaluation Course on August 23-24, and Bovine Reproduction and A.I. Training Courses on September 24-25.

M. Rudzinski noted the Genesee Land Trust was hosting information session on the NYS DAM FPIG program for purchase of development rights grants in Palmyra On September 17.

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted by: Maria Rudzinski, Senior Planner

