



Sullivan County Agriculture and Sustainability Policy Committee

July 14, 2016 AGENDA

10:30 AM

Committee Members:

Catherine Owens, Chair, Nadia Rasjz, Vice-Chair, Mark McCarthy, Terri Ward, Scott Samuelson

Call to Order

Attendance

Comments: Committee Chair

Presentation: None

Reports:

1. Agricultural Report- Melinda Meddaugh
2. Office of Sustainable Energy (OSE) Monthly Report- Carol Roig & Stephen Stuart

Discussion:

1. C-PACE

Resolutions:

1. To issue a Negative Declaration pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act regarding the addition of parcels of Real Property to existing Certified Agricultural Districts within Sullivan County.
2. To include viable Agricultural Land in an existing Certified Agricultural District within Sullivan County.

Public Comment

Adjourn

Agriculture Report May 2016

1. Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board:

- **Agricultural Districts:** A public hearing for the inclusion of parcels into Agriculture District #4 was held on June 16th. A resolution is set for the Ag and Sustainability Committee and the Full Legislature for their July meetings.
- **Agriculture Zoning:** Several municipalities in Sullivan County are undergoing zoning and comprehensive plan updates. The board is here to provide assistance and is in the process of informing municipalities about possible funding from NYS Agriculture and Markets for municipalities regarding ag zoning.
- **Training:** The ag board is going to work with the Planning Department, CCE and NYS Agriculture and Markets to provide training in the fall to municipalities, farmers and the public regarding agriculture districts and right to farm laws.

Educational Programs:

Vegetable Farm Tour: 15 participants took part in a tour of John Gorzynski's vegetable farm. Topics examined were marketing, weed management, high tunnels, crop techniques and tillage.

Workshops for June:

August 31st Corn Plot Field Day

September 1st Cover Crops and Soil Health

Dairy Processing Project:

The Planning Department and Purchasing are currently working through the bidding process for the project.

Inquiries:

We received over 75 inquiries this month on the following topics:

- Financing/business planning
- Farmland Preservation
- Agricultural Districts
- Livestock production
- Poultry Processing and equipment
- Vegetable production
- Beginner Farmer inquiries
- Maple Syrup
- Solar Farms
- Marketing and Pricing
- Soil Testing
- Ag related regulations
- Dairy Processing Equipment

- Manure Management
- Field Crop Management

Farmers Market Promotion:

Project: CCE and Planning are working with the Farmers Market Managers for all of the farmers markets in Sullivan County, SCVA and Public Health to develop a marketing plan for 2016 – 2017, in order to increase attendance at our farmers markets.

- Currently working on market manager surveys, public surveys and vendor surveys.
- We are launching the project and new branding during farmers market week (8/7 – 8/13) at the Monticello market on Monday August 8th at 12pm. More details and invitations to come.
- Next steps: to analyze all of the information gathered and put together the marketing plan.
- As part of the project we have provided educational programming at farmers market on: nutrition, cooking demos and composting.

Radio Promotion:

- Ag Reports & Market Reports: CCE provided weekly ag market reports for Thunder 102

Farm to Market/Institution Project:

- CCE is currently collecting information for the USDA Farm to Institution Planning Project. As part of the project we are surveying farmers, institutions and distributors, this also includes conducting farm visits. In addition, we are developing a better inventory of the farms located in Sullivan County. To date, we have surveyed over 25 farmers, 4 schools and 1 distributor. We anticipate interviewing 3 more large scale institutions, 1 more distributor and 10 more farmers by August. The planning project will be completed by September. Once complete, we will work on implementation.
- As a result of the information gathered so far, CCE is currently developing farmer training scheduled for fall/winter.

Agri-Business Retention and Expansion Program:

As part of this program we have accomplished the following:

- Visited 20 farms. *40 to date. With a number of visits scheduled for July.
- Created 150 farm business resource packets. We have handed out approximately 60.
- We are currently working on a Sullivan County farm resource manual.
- Developing a young dairy farmer discussion group and a new/beginner farmer discussion group.
- Developing agri-business workshops for the fall such as Technology for Farmers, Agri-Tourism, Farm law, Quickbooks, Food Safety classes, a dairy regulations for value added production
- We are working with dairy farms on exploring value added production.
- We are working with 3 farms on developing business plans.

SC Office of Sustainable Energy (OSE) Activities Report for July 2016
Reporting on June 2016

I. Zoning for Solar in Sullivan County

A lot of OSE activity over the past month has focused on helping our towns understand the various issues surrounding the need to create effective zoning for large scale solar installations. This is imperative as we move towards projects that will help us meet an increasing percentage of the County's residential, commercial and municipal energy load from locally-sited renewable energy sources. Key issues are emerging, and the County has a vital role to play in ensuring that the resources are used wisely and in a way that supports and enhances the County's goals for public health and economic development.

We are working with SC Division of Planning and Environmental Management (SC DPEM) to interpret the model zoning law provided by the NY SUN program and to help towns tailor the model to their needs.

- Reviewed the model law and toolkit
- Met with DPEM to review zoning laws proposed by 2 towns
- Working with DPEM to develop a workshop on solar zoning, scheduled for August 3 2016.
- Stephen Stuart gave a presentation to the Town of Tusten town board on June 14th.
- Stephen Stuart and Carol Roig gave a presentation to the Upper Delaware Scenic Byway on June 27th.
- We have initiated a discussion with the Division of Planning and the County Manager's office to explore ways we can collaborate to develop a coherent renewable energy plan for Sullivan County that is responsive to community concerns, identifies optimal and appropriate locations for large scale solar, and facilitates the robust build-out of solar and wind resources to meet the County's needs.

II. ENERGY MANAGEMENT FOR SC FACILITIES

Work on the following priority projects is ongoing:

NYPA project for HVAC replacement at SC Government Center: An interior lighting walkthrough of the Government Center took place in June. NYPA is identifying opportunities to reduce number of fixtures and improve lighting design as part of a change-out to LED lighting at the Government Center.

Hybrid Vehicles for SC Fleet: We are working to identify model policy statements for integration of energy efficient vehicles into the County fleet.

Solar Installation at the Liberty Health and Community Services Campus: We are still anticipating completion of installation by the end of July.

Adult Care Center Energy Efficiency Measures: The US Department of Energy has enacted new standards for Package Terminal Heat Pumps (PTHP) units which will be on the market in November 2016. When these units are available, we will work with DPW to determine the best value units, costs, and a pre-authorization agreement made with NYSEG to have NYSEG commit the incentive funds.

III. SULLIVAN COUNTY COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION (CCA)

In light of the Public Service Commission (PSC)'s decision regarding acceptable models for CCA projects, SASD is researching program configurations that will achieve the goal of a county-wide CCA for Sullivan County. Our priorities remain: energy cost reduction for all County residents and small businesses, implementation of local renewable energy generation, and full accessibility for LMI residents. SASD has provided the County Attorney with a summary of the PSC decision, and we are working on a memorandum that outlines the options we are considering.

IV. Update of the SC Climate Action Plan

Carol Roig met with Heather Brown on June 14th to map out actions for an update of the Climate Action Plan. The update will take the form of an addendum that documents progress on goals and benchmarks in the six topic areas (Energy, Transportation, Materials Management, Land & Water Use, Public Health and Emergency Planning) laid out in the 2014 plan. We will develop new goals for County government operations in the categories of materials management (waste management and purchasing decisions) and public health, in collaboration with appropriate County staff. OSE is also researching model policy statements for fuel-efficient vehicles fleets and green purchasing.

We will map out a process for updating the GHG inventory for County operations. The update will calculate GHG and cost reductions relating to large scale projects such as the solar array in Liberty and the new PPA with Gravity Renewables, as well as energy efficiency measures taken. For the GHG inventory update, we will use 2017 energy use and cost data to capture the cost reductions and energy efficiency improvements made possible by these large scale projects.

V. CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES

The Town of Highland has developed a 6 month action plan to address the following priorities:

- **Energy Efficiency for Town Buildings:** SASD will provide preliminary walk-throughs of town buildings.
- **GHG Inventory:** Highland will use 2007 billing data to establish a baseline year.
- **Community Outreach:** The Energy Committee will develop a communications plan for informational outreach to Town residents, using the Town of Highland web site and Facebook page as well as strategies for town residents who may not use social media. The Committee will offer to host a community forum on solar energy, in support of Catskill Mountainkeeper's "Solarize Sullivan" campaign, which will use bulk purchase strategies to help residents go solar.
- **Unified Permitting Process for Residential Scale solar installations:** The Highland Town Board will consider a draft resolution in July.
- **Zoning for Large Scale Solar Installations:** The model ordinance and toolkit was circulated for the Committee to review. The Committee will work with the Highland Zoning Rewrite Task Force to assist with this issue.

VI. Other Community Education and Outreach

Catskill Mountainkeeper has invited SASD to be a community partner in their *Solarize Sullivan* project, a bulk purchase program that seeks to reduce soft costs for residential and small business solar energy installations. SASD expects to provide assistance with outreach and education efforts to help potential participants understand the basics of solar energy and make informed decisions about their solar opportunities.

**COMBINED: LEGISLATIVE MEMORANDUM,
CERTIFICATE OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS
AND RESOLUTION COVER MEMO**

To: Sullivan County Legislature

Fr: Freda Eisenberg SC Division of Planning and Environmental Management

Re: Request for Consideration of a Resolution: Inclusion of New Parcels for Ag Dist 4

Date: June 29, 2016

Purpose of Resolution: [Provide a detailed statement of what the Resolution will accomplish, as well as a justification for approval by the Sullivan County Legislature.]

These resolutions are to add parcels to the NYS Agricultural District 4 pursuant to the annual 30 day window for requests for inclusion. There is a negative declaration resolution and then a inclusion resolution. The negative declaration resolution should be listed on the agenda ahead of the inclusion resolution.

Is subject of Resolution mandated? Explain:

Agricultural Districts have an annual 30 day window allowing the opportunity for parcels to be added.

Does Resolution require expenditure of funds? Yes ___ No

If "Yes, provide the following information:

Amount to be authorized by Resolution: \$ _____

Are funds already budgeted? Yes ___ No ___

If "Yes" specify appropriation code(s): _____

If "No", specify proposed source of funds: _____

Estimated Cost Breakdown by Source:

County	\$ _____	Grant(s)	\$ _____
State	\$ _____	Other	\$ _____
Federal Government	\$ _____	(Specify)	_____

Verified by Budget Office: Janet Myer

Does Resolution request Authority to Enter into a Contract? Yes ___ No

If "Yes", provide information requested on Pages 2. If "NO", please go straight to Page 3 and acquire all pre-legislative approvals.

Request for Authority to Enter into Contract with _____ of

Nature of Other Party to Contract: ·

Other:

Duration of Contract: From _____ To _____

Is this a renewal of a prior Contract? Yes ___ No ___

If "Yes" provide the following information:

Dates of prior contract(s): From _____ To _____

Amount authorized by prior contract(s): _____

Resolutions authorizing prior contracts (Resolution #s): _____

Future Renewal Options if any:

Is Subject of Contract – i.e. – the goods and/or services Mandated? Yes ___ No ___

If "Yes" cite the mandate's source; describe how this contract satisfies the requirements:

If "No" provide other justification for County to enter into this Contract: [County does not have resources in-house, best source of the subject materials, required by grant, etc.]:

Total Contract Cost for [year or contract period]: (If specific sum is not known state maximum potential cost): _____

Efforts made to find Less Costly alternative:

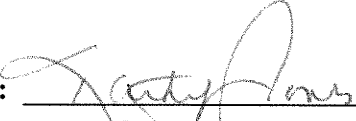
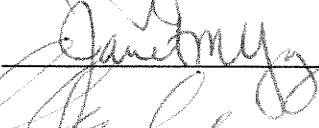


Efforts made to share costs with another agency or governmental entity:

Specify Compliance with Procurement Procedures (Bid, Request for Proposal, Quote, etc.)

_____ *not Applicable* _____

Person(s) responsible for monitoring contract (Title): _____

Pre-Legislative Approvals:

- A. Director of Purchasing:  Date 7/8/16
- B. Management and Budget:  Date 7/11/16
- C. Law Department:  Date 7/11/16
- D. County Manager:  Date 7/12/16
- E. Other as Required: _____ Date _____

Vetted in Planning, Environmental Management & Committee on _____

RESOLUTION NO. INTRODUCED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE TO ISSUE A NEGATIVE DECLARATION PURSUANT TO THE NEW YORK STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT REGARDING THE ADDITION OF PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY TO EXISTING CERTIFIED AGRICULTURAL DISTRICTS WITHIN SULLIVAN COUNTY

WHEREAS, The Sullivan County Legislature has the authority under New York State Agriculture and Markets Law Section 303-b to include additional parcels in the existing certified Agricultural District No. 4 on a yearly basis; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets has consented to the Sullivan County Legislature being declared lead agency with respect to the environmental review of the proposal to add parcels to Sullivan Agricultural District No. 4; and

WHEREAS, a short form Environmental Assessment (attached hereto) has been prepared which concludes that the proposal to add parcels, pursuant to Resolutions to be adopted by the Sullivan County Legislature, to Sullivan County Agricultural Districts No. 4 will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and concludes that the County Legislature issue a Negative Declaration.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sullivan County Legislature hereby accepts the Environmental Assessment described in the SEQRA Environmental Assessment Form (attached hereto); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sullivan County Legislature hereby issues a Negative Declaration pursuant to the provisions of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act, with respect to the proposal to add parcels to Sullivan County Agricultural District No. 4; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sullivan County Legislature authorizes the Chairman of the Legislature to execute the Environmental Assessment Form.

RESOLUTION NO. INTRODUCED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE TO INCLUDE VIABLE AGRICULTURAL LAND IN AN EXISTING CERTIFIED AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT WITHIN SULLIVAN COUNTY

WHEREAS, Section 303-b of the Agriculture and Markets Law authorizes the inclusion of viable agricultural land into certified agricultural districts; and

WHEREAS, the County of Sullivan’s Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board has recommended that the parcels listed below be added to the existing certified Agricultural District No. 4 within Sullivan County; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on the inclusion of the parcels into the existing certified Agricultural District No. 4 on June 16th, 2016 at which time all comments were heard by the Sullivan County Legislature; and

WHEREAS, all comments and considerations brought to the attention of the Sullivan County Legislature and the Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management were considered during all phases of the inclusion process, including but not limited to the environmental review process, in determining whether or not the parcels should be included in the existing certified Agricultural District No. 4.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following parcels are to be included in the existing certified Agricultural District No. 4:

Agricultural District No. 4:

- Town of Fallsburg 29.-1-24.1
- Town of Fallsburg 30.-1-3
- Town of Mamakating 50.-1-16.1
- Town of Mamakating 50.-1-16.5
- Town of Mamakating 50.-1-16.10
- Town of Mamakating 50.-1-16.11
- Town of Mamakating 49.-1-19.2
- Town of Thompson 2.-1-30.3
- Town of Thompson 2.-1-30.2
- Town of Thompson 7.-1-27.1
- Town of Thompson 7.-1-26.10
- Town of Thompson 7.-1-27.2
- Town of Thompson 7.-1-26.9
- Town of Thompson 7.-1-26.15
- Town of Thompson 7.-1-26.8
- Town of Thompson 7.-1-26.11
- Town of Thompson 7.-1-26.7