### HEATHER BROWN COMMISSIONER



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# SULLIVAN COUNTY DIVISION OF PLANNING, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & REAL PROPERTY SULLIVAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER

100 NORTH STREET - PO Box 5012 - MONTICELLO, NEW YORK 12701

## PRESS RELEASE TO BE POSTED ON COUNTY WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

#### Vacancies on the Sullivan County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board

The Sullivan County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board (AFPB) was established by the Sullivan County Legislature in 1992. Under Article 25AA of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law, counties are required to establish agricultural and farmland protection boards to assist in review of public land acquisition, review of non-farm projects within New York State Certified Agricultural Districts, formation and review of Agricultural Districts and the development and implementation of county and municipal agricultural and farmland protection plans.

The AFPB generally meets quarterly. During the thirty-day window to include viable agricultural land into the New York State Certified Agricultural Districts, which occurs annually in April, members may participate in site visits to evaluate applications for inclusion into the Agricultural Districts. In addition, during the eight-year comprehensive review of an Agricultural District, members meet to review proposed modifications and prepare recommendations for the County Legislature.

The County is also updating their Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan in 2024 and the Board will be responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of the plan.

At this time there are two (3) positions on the Sullivan County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board that are available either due to vacancy or term reappointments:

- One position for an active farmer
- One position for an active farmer and/or other agricultural stakeholder and/or stakeholder from an organization dedicated to agricultural land preservation.
- One position for an agri-business

New terms will be for four years, after a new appointment and confirmation by the Sullivan County Legislature. Interested persons must reside in Sullivan County.

The term "active farmer" is defined by the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board as a person who actively farms land that he or she either owns or rents, and that falls within one of the following categories:

- not less than seven acres of land used as a single operation for the production for sale of crops, livestock or livestock products of an average gross sales value of ten thousand dollars or more; or,
- less than seven acres used as a single operation for the production for sale of crops, livestock or livestock products of an average gross sales value of fifty thousand dollars or more.

Interested persons should send a letter of interest and statement of qualifications to AnnMarie Martin, Clerk to the Sullivan County Legislature, Sullivan County Government Center, 100 North Street, PO Box 5012, Monticello, NY 12701 or by email to annmarie.martin@sullivanny.us by December 29, 2023.



#### Vacancies on the Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District Board

The Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District is a not-for-profit local governmental agency that is partially funded by the county and by New York State. The District's policy is the preservation of soil and water resources, and utilizing resources to enhance the quality of life, thereby helping county landowners, and municipalities with environmental issues.

The Board of Directors meeting is held the second Monday of every month and starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Cornell Cooperative Education Extension Center on Ferndale-Loomis Road in Liberty, New York. The term of the Directors is for a three-year term beginning in January.

Responsibilities of the Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors:

- Establish and terminate positions of employment and establish salaries
- Authorize the establishment of District's financial accounts
- To carry out preventive and control measures within the district and to review and approve all projects District employees work on
- Review bills, payments, and District's bank statement
- To approve contracts and agreements to enter into with cooperators
- Provide oversight of Districts implementation of programs for the preservation of county natural resources

At this time there are three positions open on the Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District Board. All applicants will need to submit their letter of interest by December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

- 1. Sullivan County Farmer Representative A practicing farmer who resides in Sullivan County and will represent the farming interests.
- 2. Farm Bureau Representative An active farmer who is a member of the Sullivan County Farm Bureau to be submitted by the Farm Bureau
- 3. Sullivan County Grange Representative A representative of the Sullivan County Grange and who resides in Sullivan County and will be submitted by the Grange.

Anyone interested in serving on the Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District Board can contact or send a letter to AnnMarie Martin, Clerk to the Sullivan County Legislature, Sullivan County Government Center, 100 North Street, P.O. Box 5012, Monticello, NY 12701 or (845) 807-0435.

Thank you. Lisa Schick