



Dutchess County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board Minutes

February 3, 2026, 6:30pm

At the Farm and Home Center, Millbrook NY

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Matt Sabellico at 6:35pm

Roll Call

Present: Matt Sabellico; Doug Giles; Catherine Weisse; Eoin Wrafter; Amanda Bergin; Brian Scoralick; Ed Hackett; Legislator Eric Alexander

Absent: Ken Miglorelli, Sean Caroll

Members of the Public Present: None

A motion was made to approve the minutes of June 3rd, 2025 by Matt Sabellico, Ed Hackett seconded. Motion carried. Vote: all in favor none opposed

Communication and Announcements:

- Two NOI were received, and response letters were submitted to Ag and Markets by the Chair
 - o Cascade Creek
 - o Millerton
- Motion to approve by Matt Sabellico, Ed Hackett seconded. Motion carried. Vote all in favor none opposed

Old business:

- Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan- Discussion of update
 - o Amanda has been in contact with Jeff Kehoe regarding updates to the Ag plan. Informed that a partial update can be done to update the Ag Priority map and any other in-house tweaks.
 - o Explanation of the plan w/ overview given to new members not fully familiar with the ag plan

- Matt motioned to do a partial update to the plan, Ed seconded. Motion carried, Vote all in favor none opposed
- Ag Forum Recap
 - Amanda gave an overview of the Ag Forum held in August at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds. About 60-70 people attended the event and it was also broadcast over the barn speakers. President of SUNY Cobleskill, Dr. Marion Terenzio and Dr. Ferguson Director of Cobleskill's IRV were the keynote speakers. They presented on the state of agriculture in New York State and unveiled some exiting news for the college's future. Feedback from attendees was positive and many said they enjoyed the presentation and connection back to the youth.
 - Discussion was brought up about whether the Forum should still go on in future years or if a different event should be created. Motion to table the idea till next meeting was made by Matt, seconded by Brian. Vote all in favor none opposed.

New Business:

- Education Sub-committee:
 - Amanda gave an update on the Education Sub-committee. Tied in from the earlier discussion of a potential new event, the education sub-committee is exploring ideas for a youth event. Discussion of maybe pairing the two ideas together for an all-day event.
- NYSDAM FPIG Endorsements for DLC
 - As requested by Dutchess Land Conservancy (DLC), the AFPB Board discussed reviewing their applications for the NYSDAM FPIG.
 - Two properties were reviewed for endorsement letters
 - Rockwell Farm property: Ed motioned to approve, Brian seconded, vote all in favor none opposed
 - Robert's Farm property: Matt motioned to approve, Doug seconded, Vote all in favor none opposed
- Ag District process overview and guidelines
 - Amanda presented the proposed guidelines document to be used as an educational piece to visualize what is reviewed by the AFPB. Discussion followed and some minor changes were suggested.
 - Brian led the overview of the process for this year for the new members in the room
- Vote for Vice Chair
 - Matt opened discussions for a vice chair before Legislator Eric Alexander had to leave the meeting
 - Brian nominated Doug as vice chair
 - Ed seconds, Vote all in favor none opposed. Doug accepted. Motion carried.
- Community profile update suggestions

- Amanda opened the discussion about continuing the community profile update
- Agritourism guidelines
 - Amanda opened the discussion about adopting potential agritourism guidelines as a model document like the right to farm law to help guide municipalities. The idea was well received and tabled for the future plan update discussion next meeting
- Next meeting:
 - June 1st depending on room availability, Amanda will follow up via email with confirmation

Eoin motioned to adjourn the meeting, Ed seconded, vote all in favor none opposed Meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.

Minutes Respectfully submitted,

Amanda Bergin