

## Meeting Summary

**Town of Stillwater GEIS  
Farmland & Open Space Protection Plan  
October 11, 2007 7:00PM**

**Attendees:** Dave Anusesky, Marsha Himler, Chris Martin (Saratoga National Historical Park), Diane Metz (Saratoga PLAN), Bob Radcliffe, Marty Dela Rosa, Paul Cummings (TCC), Mike Welti (TCC)

### **The following topics were discussed:**

1. Paul Cummings began the meeting by introducing Diane Metz of Saratoga PLAN and Marsha Himler to the other members of the Committee.
2. The Committee reviewed the Public Workshop meeting minutes for comments. Dave Anuseky believed that the Workshop was a positive experience and that getting people “around the table” to discuss various ideas and issues was very helpful and productive.
3. Committee members were excited about information that was obtained at the Workshop, including ideas for new and existing trails, historic sites, existing agricultural uses, etc.
4. Marsha Himler expressed concern over certain trail regulations, equestrian use. In particular, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s (DEC) revised rule concerning the “Setting of Body Gripping Traps on Land,” which could force land managers to choose between trapping and trail use, and has reportedly lead to some trail closures.
5. The Committee reviewed TCC scope of work. Mike Welti discussed the specific deliverables of the Farmland and Open Space project:
  - a. A resources of interest inventory:
    - i. Farmlands
    - ii. Natural Systems
    - iii. Existing greenway/trail projects
  - b. Targeted preservation/conservation goals
  - c. Identify protection strategies to achieve those goals
  - d. A budget to fund those objective
  - e. A description of the additional activates necessary to accomplish those goals

Mr. Welti further discussed additional project deliverables, such as resource identification and mapping, the public workshop, a conceptual lands of conservation interest map, and an open space/farmland conservation vision plan.

- Mr. Welti signaled that the committee was entering a new phase, and that much of the inventory work had been completed.
6. Mike Welti then discussed the Town of Stillwater Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS). Mr. Welti explained that the Farmland and Open Space Protection initiative was part of greater town-wide effort to mitigate potential impacts associated with growth and development. Mr. Welti and the Committee reviewed the Town of Malta's (New York) GEIS as an example. The Malta GEIS relied upon various projections and buildout analysis results.
  7. Paul Cummings reviewed the Town of Stillwater buildout analysis. Mr. Cummings explained the buildout analysis process – which is an estimate of the overall development potential of a land area given a set of assumptions and constraints. Utilizing the Town's zoning regulations, as well as environmental and regulatory constraints, an estimate of the total number of residential dwelling units and the floor area of commercial/industrial space was calculated. Mr. Cummings then explained how these calculations were used to develop ten (10) and twenty (20) year growth projections.
  8. After reviewing the TCC scope of work and the Stillwater buildout analysis, the Committee agreed to follow a similar procedure as presented in the Malta GEIS.
  9. Paul Cummings presented a first draft of the “Conceptual Lands of Conservation Interest Map.” The map delineated three areas, Cultural & Historic Areas, Agricultural Areas, and Natural Resource Areas. The Committee reviewed the map and provided suggestion and comments:
    - a. Historic and Cultural resource area boundary should follow the *Battles of Saratoga Preservation and Viewshed Protection Plan* boundary.
    - b. Various edits regarding map clarity and legibility should be made.
    - c. The term “area” should be used instead of “zone.”
  10. Prior to adjourning, the Committee discussed several logistics regarding an additional public workshop/presentation and dates for the next Committee meeting, which was scheduled October 29<sup>th</sup>.
  11. Marty Dela Rosa provided the Committee with a presentation on protecting and financing farmland preservation from the Rensselaer County Cornell Cooperative Extension.

**Follow Up:**

1. TCC to inquire about old Radar Site ownership and use.
2. TCC to make various changes/updates to “Conceptual Lands of Conservation Interest Map.”

3. TCC to review Marty Dela Rosa's agriculture preservation presentation.
4. Diane Metz to forward tax assessor contact information.
5. Marsha Himler to forward the DEC revised rule concerning the "Setting of Body Gripping Traps on Land."

Notes prepared by P. Cummings.

Please report any errors or omissions no later than October 24, 2007 to  
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