

## MINUTES

### GENESEE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL AND FARMLAND PROTECTION BOARD

Thursday, September 21, 2023

A meeting of the Genesee County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board was held on Thursday, September 21, 2023 at 2:00 PM in the IT Training Room of Genesee County Building 2 at 3837 W. Main Street Rd. in the Town of Batavia.

Members in attendance: Christian Yunker, Jan Beglinger, Janette Veazey-Post, Anthony Colangelo, Kevin Andrews, and Felipe Oltramari. Staff present was Erin Pence. Attending via Zoom Cloud Meetings was Rachel Chrostowski from the Western New York Land Conservancy.

**The meeting was called to order at 2:01 PM.**

#### **Approval of Minutes**

A Motion to APPROVE the minutes of the March 14, 2023 meeting was made by Jan Beglinger, seconded by Jeanette Veazey-Post, and carried, with Anthony Colangelo abstaining.

#### **Farmland Protection Projects**

Rachel presented information about a cultural outreach grant that she hopes to apply for to do outreach and mapping and analysis of farmland towards supporting protection efforts. The grant would allow her to create a screening tool to develop data towards determining good candidates for protection grants.

A motion to support a recommendation for the project for submittal to New York State was made by Jeanette Veazey-Post, seconded by Jan Beglinger, and passed.

Christian Yunker asked about the process of the planned inventory. Rachel outlined the plan to do a GIS inventory with data such as aerial imagery, property records, soil types, and development pressure. \$2500 of the grant would go towards creating the inventory and \$2500 would go towards the outreach program.

Rachel also updated the Board on the status of protection projects and their funding and/or waitlist status.

Anthony Colangelo asked about how many farmland protection projects are awarded. Rachel answered that 4.5 million dollars were allocated this year, and she outlined the process of awards and reallocation that has been the strategy with this NYS program.

Anthony asked about why a farmer would choose to work with conservation organization over another. Rachel shared the map that shows the different areas covered by the three Genesee County Farmland Protection Partners and explained that landowners are usually referred to a conservation organization by a service provider, and how the organizations currently working in Genesee County 'claimed dibs' on certain areas.

### **Other Business**

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for December 21, 2023 at 10:00 AM.

**A motion to adjourn was made Kevin Andrews, seconded by Felipe Oltramari.  
Meeting adjourned at 3:03 PM.**