

PUBLIC HEARING
AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT #1
Monday, March 28, 2022 @ 11:30 a.m.

Shaun Gilliland, Chairman
James Monty, Vice-Chairman

Chairman Gilliland called this Public Hearing to order at 11:30 a.m. with the following supervisors in attendance: Clayton Barber, Robin DeLoria, Stephanie DeZalia, Derek Doty, Shaun Gilliland, Charles Harrington, Ken Hughes, Steve McNally, Jim Monty, Tom Scozzafava, Matthew Stanley, Joe Pete Wilson and Mark Wright. Charlie Harrington, Noel Merrihew and Michael Tyler were absent. Roy Holzer and Davina Winemiller were excused.

Department heads present were: Judy Garrison, Terri Morse, Daniel Palmer and Anna Reynolds.

Also present: Carly Summers.

GILLILLAND: I will call this public hearing to order please and we'll start with the reading of the public notice.

GARRISON: *Notice of Public Hearing Essex County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board Agricultural district #1.*

Please take notice that the Essex County Board of Supervisors will hold and conduct a public hearing at the Supervisors' Chambers in the Essex County Government Center, 7551 Court Street, Elizabethtown, New York on the 28th day of March at 11:30 a.m., on the addition of one parcel to Agricultural District #1.

Please take further notice recommendations of Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board note that: the Agricultural Districts in Essex County have been in existence since 1973 and the district has helped agriculture remain a viable industry in Essex County. The land to be included contains a significant percentage of soils of statewide importance and capable of sustaining agricultural enterprises if certain protections are provided.

Please take further notice Essex County has a New York State certified Agricultural District #1 of 62,341.02 acres. This addition is under Article 25-AA of the Agriculture and Markets Law for annual inclusion of farms with greater than 50% soils of prime or important statewide importance. Please take further notice that at said public hearing to be held at the time and place set forth above, the Essex County Board of Supervisors will hear all persons interested therein concerning the same. Dated: March 17, 2022

Judith A. Garrison, Clerk Essex County Board of Supervisors, P.O. Box 217, 7551 Court Street, Elizabethtown, NY 12932, (518) 873-3353

GILLILLAND: Thank you. Carly, would you like to just kind of give a brief statement on this inclusion? Thank you.

SUMMERS: Good morning. I'm Carly Summers of Cornell Cooperative Extension and I lead the Agricultural Farmland Protection Board which is a group made up of a large variety of constituents as per the Ag Markets Law 25AA, so it includes Community Resources, Anna, Soil and Water, Real Property, several farmers and other groups like that so we can evaluate all of those properties that are included in applications to join or leave the Ag districts. Ag districts are basically the state's way of protecting the right to farm. So a lot of people confuse Ag districts

with Ag assessment. Ag assessment and Ag districts are both included in this Law 25AA that Ag and Markets created, they both are designed to protect farmland but Ag districts does not mess with anybody's taxes so if anybody is confused about that. So Ag districts basically just is there as a right to farm in that. Anyone purchasing property near an Ag district should by law be notified by a Real Estate Agent or property owner that they are purchasing near an Ag district property that way, they are aware of agricultural activities may occur next to them and then, the Ag district protects farmland in the Ag district by protecting their best management practices. So say I move in next to an orchard that sprays pesticides as long as they are spraying per best management practices Ag districts protects their right to farm if a neighbor decides they want to sue for instance or create disturbance based off of their best management practices. Is that a good run down or does anybody have any questions?

DEZALIA: Where is the property that is being added to it?

SUMMERS: The property being added is in Crown Point. It's about 130 acres. It's mostly hay, it's not a super active commercial farm currently and there were a couple of other applications too both of them were in residential type areas so the Farmland Protection Board decided not to include those. One more was in a completely forested, couple hundred acres that had the aspirations to someday become a native perennial production facility they just decided they would ask that person to reapply if they ever created a commercial agricultural operation those were the four.

HUGHES: Thank you sir. Carly, if we wanted a map of the current Ag districts in Essex County would you be able to provide us that?

SUMMERS: Absolutely and it is actually available in the Essex County Tax map, they added a layer. Yes, which was very helpful because prior to that everybody had to call me and I had to look it up so now everybody can look up their own parcel, it's very helpful.

HUGHES: Awesome, thank you.

GILLILLAND: Further questions? Anybody from the member of the public would like to speak or be heard? The board? Being none, we are adjourned.

SUMMERS: Thank you.

As there was no further discussion to come before this public hearing it was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Garrison, Clerk
Board of Supervisors