

PUBLIC HEARING
AGRICULTURE AND FARMLAND PROTECTION BOARD
ADDITON OF ONE (1) PARCEL TO THE
ESSEX COUNTY AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT #1

Monday, February 12, 2024 - 9:00 AM

Shaun Gilliland, Chairman
James Monty, Vice-Chairman

Chairman Gilliland called this Public Hearing to order at 9:00 am with the following Supervisors in attendance: Matthew Brassard, Robin DeLoria, Shaun Gilliland, Ken Hughes, James Monty, Cathleen Reusser, Matt Stanley, Ike Tyler, Margaret Wood and Mark Wright. Derek Doty was excused.

Department Heads present: Judy Garrison and Michael Mascarenas.

Also present: Elizabeth Terry and Carly Summers.

News media: None present.

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

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 Monday February 12, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., on Agricultural District #1, upon the recommendations of the Essex County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board regarding parcels to be added to the Agricultural District of Essex County.

Please take further notice that the Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board shares the Agricultural Districts in Essex County have been in existence since 1971 and the district has helped agriculture remain a viable industry in Essex County. The land to be included was evaluated on the basis of being primarily productive agricultural land located in an area compatible with agricultural operations.

Please take further notice Essex County has a New York State certified Agricultural District #1 of 62,341 acres. This addition is under Article 25-AA of the Agriculture and Markets Law.

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. Judith A. Garrison, Clerk.

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

Date: January 30, 2024

GILLILLAND: Thank you. Any members of the public who would like to have a comment on this? I note, that this is in the Town of Essex so there's really no need.

SUMMERS: I'm just here to answer any questions. I had two applications this year and one was accepted. The one that was accepted was Darla and Ben Brekenridge in the Town of Essex on Jersey Street. It's only about 18 acres so it's a little small but it's completely surrounded by Ag

Districts and they do rent it out for hay, the Farmland Protection Board evaluated both applications closely and the one that they decided to not include had applied previously, you might remember Shaun it was located in Keene and the deed restricts all agricultural use so that was an easy one to not accept. So if you have any questions I'd be happy to answer any questions about Ag District in general or the parcels or how the Farmland Protection Board evaluates these properties.

GILLILLAND: Questions?

DELORIA: Who in their right mind would put an exemption on agriculture on a piece of property? What is so special about the property that they wouldn't want agricultural use for that?

SUMMERS: It's right in the middle of sort of a residential area so it also, I mean even if it didn't have that restriction on the deed the Farmland Protection Board might not have accepted it just because this is an interesting topic because the Ag District is to protect farmers but it's also meant to protect everybody else so they are wanting to try and balance and not allowing as much conflict between agriculture and residences so trying to concentrate agriculture in areas where it's not likely to create conflict and then protecting it in areas where it should be so in that case it really wasn't a good fit and there was a history of neighborly dispute which the Ag District is not meant to intervene in. It's more, if you have a history it wasn't even a strong agricultural operation they just were saying they wanted to be in agriculture someday so yeah, it wasn't a good fit but good question.

GILLILLAND: Any other questions? Alright, thank you very much. We are adjourned.

As there was no further discussion to come before this public hearing it was adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Garrison, Clerk
Board of Supervisors