

**Salem Comprehensive Plan
Meeting Minutes
September 15, 2008
Town Hall 7 p.m.**

Attendees: Chuck Alexander, Steve Alexander, Lissa Chambers, Joseph Childs, Bill Eberle, Nancy Hand Higby, Rob Laukaitis, Brigid Nosal, Pat Phillips, Eileen Ryan, Dottie Schneider, Anita Witten

Joseph began the meeting with a discussion of the status of the Village Development Plan. He stated a public hearing was conducted on September 3 and drew very few people. He said that the Plan has been reviewed by the County Planning Board and now needs a resolution from the Village Board to formally accept the plan. Joseph will provide a copy of the final plan for the Committee's library file.

Lissa Chambers gave the Committee some information she received from Cambridge residents regarding the Cambridge Comprehensive Plan. This information may be useful for Salem to help identify and address concerns and avoid pitfalls as Salem's plan is developed. The Committee asked Lissa to join the committee and be a part of the Steering committee for the Farmland Protection Plan.

The committee then began to identify possible stakeholders to be interviewed as part of the Farmland Protection Plan (FPP). American Farmland Trust (AFT) as our consultant will be conducting these interviews and requested that the committee provide the names and addresses of those selected to be interviewed. Chuck Alexander previously compiled a list of all businesses in Salem and offered to sort the list so that agricultural businesses and Farms would be readily available. A partial list includes:

Bruce Ferguson – land owner, farming, lessor
Tom Steele – land owner farmer
Garden Works – Berry farm, ag business
Albert Sheldon – farmer
Salem Farm Supply – ag business
Chambers Family – farmers
CaroVail – ag business - fertilizer
Cargill – ag business – feed
Woody Hill (Sheldon Brown) – farm
Battenkill Creamery – Seth McEachron – farm
3 Corner Sheep Farm
Underwood Greenhouse

It was suggested that Al Klein and Mike Nolan be interviewed as they have a successful leasee/lessor relationship. This list is very partial and the list provided by Chuck should be considered the full list from which to select those to be interviewed. It was suggested that all

those on the list be contacted in some way to inform them of the FPP process and request their input and/or involvement. Steve Alexander said he would contact the assessor to get more information regarding croplands.

The committee then discussed the Steering committee for the FPP. Eileen suggested that the Steering committee might be smaller than the Comprehensive Plan Committee – maybe five people and include farmers (Lissa and Seth), Dottie (as Chair of the Comprehensive Plan Committee) and maybe one or two ag business representatives. It was questioned if this committee would meet in place of the Comprehensive Plan committee or in addition to the Comprehensive Plan Committee. Dottie stated she will discuss the Steering committee with Liz Brock from AFT to get an understanding of what Liz would expect from a steering committee. Nancy suggested an additional meeting to pare down the stakeholder/interviewee list. It was decided that Dottie would first contact Liz and then determine if an additional meeting would be needed.

Action Items:

Dottie will contact Liz Brock from AFT regarding the make-up of the steering committee and the list for interviewees.

Chuck will resort the business list to focus on farmers, land owners and ag businesses and send out via email.

Steve will contact the Salem assessor to get additional agricultural land info.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Monday October 13, at 7pm.** at the Town Hall. Please note that meeting will now be the **SECOND MONDAY** of the month and will include American Farmland Trust.