

**Town of Salem Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan
Steering Committee Meeting**

MINUTES

Monday, January 12, 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Present: Chuck Alexander, Dottie Schneider, Karen Weinberg, Herb Perkins, Eileen Ryan, Nancy Hand Higby, Robert Laukaitis.

Interview candidates:

Interview candidates were finalized. The list includes 12 people and farms representative of agriculture in Salem. Liz will work with Brian Gilchrist to get an introductory letter out next week. Liz will begin interviews at the end of January with a goal to be done before the next committee meeting. Candidates as selected by the steering committee are below:

Neil	Adams	Up and Over Farm
Craig	Barnes	Slate Hill Farm Lillies
Sheldon	Brown	Woody Hill Farm
JR	Dugas	Meygas Stables
Pat	Sheldon	Sheldon Farms
Jay	Skellie	Hi-Brow Farm
Meg	Southerland	Gardenworks
Tom	Steele	
Ken	Thompson	
Phyllis	Underwood	Underwood Greenhouse
Peter	Vail	Carovail
		Cargill

Mapping:

Liz shared draft maps pulled together by the County Office of Real Property Services. They included maps of agricultural districts in Salem, aquifers and water resources, prime and statewide important soils and tax assessor property codes. The purpose of these maps is to identify the agricultural resources and businesses in town that the plan aims to protect and support.

Liz indicated she will invite Chris DeBolt to an upcoming meeting to discuss the data used to create these maps (or provide the information on behalf of Chris if he is unable to attend). Karen, Chuck and Nancy volunteered to “field check” the tax code map as it was determined to be inaccurate – parcels coded as vacant or residential which are in agricultural production. The committee determined that it would be useful to create on master map of agricultural production in Salem. The committee, Liz and the County will work towards this goal.

Action Items:

- ✓ Liz to send interview letter to Brian Gilchrist to mail
- ✓ Liz to schedule time to meet with Bruce Ferguson for tour of town and map discussion
- ✓ Liz to begin interviews
- ✓ Liz to send 11x17 maps in color to Karen, Chuck and Nancy for “field check”

Next meeting postponed one week – February 16th, 2009, 7:00 – 8:30 pm. Town office