

***Town of Salem Agriculture and Farm Viability Plan***  
**Steering Committee Meeting**

**MINUTES**

**Monday, June 29, 7:00 – 8:30 pm**  
**Salem Town Office**  
**214 Main Street**

**Attending:** Steve Alexander, Dottie Schneider, Eileen Ryan, Rob Laukaitis, Liz Brock

**Contact follow up**

Liz reported that she will continue to make contacts with stakeholders as identified during the discussions on a “toolbox” to achieve the goals as drafted below. She will complete this outreach in July to help compile a complete draft of recommendations for the committee and farm stakeholders in August.

**Goals – Edits were made, working final goals for the plan below.**

- a. Encourage agricultural education and act as information resource about agricultural programs and opportunities.
- b. Seek ways to maintain and expand agricultural infrastructure to support viability of farms in Salem and beyond.
- c. Promote farms and the benefits that agriculture provides to the community.
- d. Prepare to address the impacts of new development on agricultural viability.

**Toolbox for Goals C and D – what tools might the town use to achieve these goals?**

The committee talked at length about possible tools for the second two goals. They also identified any activities already taking place that would advance the first two goals along with the primary contact people behind each. Liz will provide a complete draft of the strategies/actions in August for review by the committee.

**Discussion on engaging farm community**

Supervisor Alexander mentioned that it seemed as if we were having trouble getting farmers on the Steering Committee to attend committee meetings. Of course, July is a terrible month and with the rainy weather, it has proved challenging for all farmers to get fieldwork done. However, the Committee members present discussed alternative ideas to get farmers more engaged in the process, to ensure that the plan would meet their needs and achieve their goals. The idea was raised to host a “farmer” meeting on draft recommendations for the plan in early August, when hopefully fieldwork would have let up a little. Liz will contact key farmer representatives in the community to find a location on farm and a date and time that would work for many. Supervisor Alexander also suggested having pie and ice cream as an incentive to get people to attend.

**NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, August 19 7:30 – 8:30 pm. Held at Sheldon’s Farmstand, Route 22. Pie and ice cream will be served.** We will review a list of draft recommendations for the plan.