

PRESS RELEASE
SALEM RECEIVES A JOINT TOWN & VILLAGE GRANT TO DEVELOP A
FARMLAND PROTECTION PLAN
February 27, 2008

New York State Agriculture Commissioner Patrick Hooker announced a grant for \$25,000 to help the Village and Town of Salem develop a joint local agricultural and farmland protection plan. This protection plan is part of the work that will be completed in the process of updating the Town and Village's joint Comprehensive Plan.

The State's Farmland Protection Program provides funding for the planning grants. Planning grants include funds for developing an agricultural and farmland protection plan. The planning grants provide local municipalities with an economic incentive to develop local agricultural and farmland protection plans. These plans help maintain the economic viability of the State's agricultural industry and its supporting land base and to protect the environmental and landscape preservation values associated with agriculture.

Farmland protection plans should identify the location of farmland proposed to be protected, the value of that land to the local economy, the value of that land as open space, consequences of possible conversion, and the level of conversion pressure on the proposed land. For a community that has significant farmland such as Salem, these protection plans will help the Town and Village identify and address some of the major goals and objectives that will be included in the updated Comprehensive Plan.

The Comprehensive Plan Committee currently has eleven members including Dorothy Schneider as Chair and official Town Board representative and Joseph Childs as the official Village representative. Other committee members include Chuck Alexander, Steve Alexander, Bill Eberle, Bruce Ferguson, Nancy Hand Higby, Robert Laukaitis, Brigid Nosal, Eileen Ryan and Anita Witten. The Plan Committee meets the third Monday of the month at the Salem Town Hall and has been meeting since May 2007. The Committee encourages all Town and Village residents to become involved in the Planning process.

The Comprehensive Plan Committee has created a [Planning Documents Reference Library](#) for public access. One set of the documents is kept at the Town Archives Room in the Old Washington County Courthouse, and a duplicate set is housed at Bancroft Library. The public is invited to go to either place, during regular hours, and browse. (This Library is for reference only. No documents may be checked out.) Residents can also find information regarding the current Plan, the Planning Committee and the work done to date on the Town's website. <http://www.salem-ny.com/townminutes.html>