



AG/Planning/Environmental

Committee Meeting

60 Central Ave.
Cortland, NY 13045
<http://www.cortland-co.org>

~ Agenda ~

Tuesday, November 2, 2021

10:00 AM

Board Room

WebEx Meeting Information

<https://cortlandny.webex.com/cortlandny/j.php?MTID=mc257d39df7c200f0d928e9fc0389fe45>

Tuesday, Nov 2, 2021 10:00 am | 1 hour | (UTC-04:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)

Meeting number: 2344 179 0873

Password: mjXBJM9UX38

Join by phone

+1-415-655-0001 US Toll

Access code: 234 417 90873

CALL TO ORDER

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Late	Arrived
Committee Member Douglas Bentley	☐	☐	☐	
Committee Member Beau Harbin	☐	☐	☐	
Committee Member Ronald J. Van Dee	☐	☐	☐	
Committee Member Susan Wilson	☐	☐	☐	
Committee Chair Kevin Fitch	☐	☐	☐	
Committee Member Joseph Nauseef	☐	☐	☐	
Committee Vice-Chair Mitchel Eccleston	☐	☐	☐	

MINUTES

1. Ag/Planning/Environmental - Committee Meeting - Oct 12, 2021 10:00 AM

RESOLUTIONS

ON MOTION OF FITCH

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1

Abolish Temporary Position of Planning Advisor - Planning Department

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 126-21 established and authorized a temporary position of Planning Advisor for an eighteen month period, AND

WHEREAS, the Planning Department no longer has a need for this temporary position, NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the position of Planning Advisor is hereby abolished effective December 31, 2021 at midnight.

ON MOTION OF FITCH

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2

Advocating for Maintaining a 60 Hour Work Week for Farm Workers

WHEREAS, farmers are critical components of our regional economy and are necessary to ensure supermarkets are stocked with food, AND

WHEREAS, from the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Central New York farmers have stepped up and ensured their operations continued and were responsible for donating thousands of pounds of food to local food banks at a time of significant need, AND

WHEREAS, farmers face a tremendous number of problems outside of their control including changes in consumer demand leading to price change, obtaining labor, climate change, land management policies, foreign market competition, livestock and crop disease, and natural disasters, AND

WHEREAS, in addition to the practical issues related to growing and selling food products, farmers have to contend with wavering levels of government regulations including changes in wages and overtime threshold, AND

WHEREAS, over the last year the Central New York farmers have seen an increase of over 37% on the cost of feed, over 18% in labor costs and over 50% in fuel costs, AND

WHEREAS, one of the more pressing issues for the farming community has been mandated overtime requirements since the 2019 Farm Laborers Fair Practice Act, currently gives farmworkers a right to overtime after sixty (60) hours of work each week, AND

WHEREAS, farmers are reliant on migratory work forces during the short growing season here in Central New York as workers are here for only a few months in the spring and summer and they have only so many hours each year to get the work done, AND

WHEREAS, the Act does not prohibit the wage board from arbitrarily decreasing the threshold again, further decreasing the threshold for overtime and thereby increasing costs on local farms and their use of seasonal workers, AND

WHEREAS, the provisions of the Act would negatively impact the farming community by either increasing costs on farmers, who are operating under very tight margins, or will cut into work opportunities for migratory workers, AND

WHEREAS, cutting budgeted support levels and drastically increasing costs through government interference should be avoided whenever possible, NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that this honorable body hereby supports farmers and migrant workers who do not want their hours reduced and urges utilizing all budgeted funding for the promotion of New York State farming products, provide critical applied research, ensure access to markets, educate the public and connect them to their food, and any other program designed to benefiting local farmers, AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Cortland County Legislature hereby advocates to maintain farmworkers a right to overtime after sixty (60) hours of work each week in accordance with the 2019 Farm Laborers Fair Practice Act, AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the New York State Senate and Assembly, Governor Kathy Hochul's office, State Senator Peter Oberacker, Assemblymember Dr. Anna Kelles, Assemblymember John Lemondes and the New York Farm Bureau.

Establish Little York Lake Special Taxing District

WHEREAS, the Little York Lake Preservation Society, Inc. recommends the creation of a Special Taxing District for the properties surrounding Little York Lake, AND

WHEREAS, the name of this district would be the “Little York Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District”, hereinafter referred to as “District”, AND

WHEREAS, the Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District will be the administrative agent for the District at no cost except for the reimbursement for direct costs from the Little York Lake Preservation Society, Inc., AND

WHEREAS, after receiving the maps, plans, reports and recommendations from the Little York Lake Preservation Society, Inc., it is the recommendation of the Agricultural, Planning and Environmental Committee to create this District, AND

WHEREAS, the District will include the tax map parcels highlighted on the attached map, AND

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on October 26, 2021 at 60 Central Avenue, Room 308, Cortland, New York 13045 for any and all persons wishing to speak regarding the creation of this District pursuant to County Law § 254, NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOVLED, that the Special Taxing District known as the “Little York Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District” be and hereby is created as of January 1, 2023, AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that Cortland County Real Property Tax Services and the County Treasurer be and hereby are authorized to implement and collect this special tax.

MONTHLY REPORTS

1. SPCA Monthly Report
2. Planning Department Budget Report - October 2021
3. Planning Department - Activity Report November 2021

ADJOURNMENT