

*Public Hearing
North-Tioga Agricultural District
March 1, 2017*

The Public Hearing on reviewing a proposed plan for continuation with modifications of the North-Tioga Agricultural District in the Towns of Richford, Berkshire and Newark Valley as well as the Village of Newark Valley was called to order by the Chair at 1:00 P.M. Six Legislative members were present, Legislators Monell, Mullen and Sullivan being absent.

There were eight people in attendance along with Elaine Jardine, County Planning Director, William Ostrander, GIS Director, and Margaret Ball, Agricultural Development Specialist CCE Tioga.

The Clerk read the legal notice as published in the official newspapers.

Elaine Jardine, County Planning Director spoke. "Thanks for coming today. The anniversary of this eight-year review of the North Tioga Agricultural District comes up in July of this year and it is a 300-day review process. It started in September last year. We have done extensive outreach and data collection to farmers and owners of potential agricultural land in the Towns of Richford, Berkshire, and Newark Valley, and the Village of Newark Valley, and we are almost to the end now of the review process. We sent out letters for everyone affected on this map, all the landowners about the public hearing.

"As of today the number of acres in the district is 29,336. The number of acres in farms is 22,806 acres, which is about a 78% agricultural rate of parcels in the District. There is 103 farms and number of acres owned by the farmers is 21,494, number of acres rented is 1311. Since the last review in 2009 the data results add an addition of 5803 acres with 243 deleted. There was one request for removal, three parcels in the District that we got as a result of our mailing for the public hearing.

"Since the last review there is an increase of 64 acres in farms and added 31 farming enterprises during this review process. In our opinion it has been a very successful review and data collection for the District. The maps are on display here. There is a large one with property listings on it and then I have a smaller one here with number code to property listing and then listing of just each farm not each parcel by principle farm enterprise and these are on display for you to look at. After we close the hearing you can look at the maps, ask questions. We will stay here for a little bit after the close of the hearing. The next steps are the Legislature will adopt the continuation with these proposed modifications at their March 14th meeting. They will vote on adoption for that

and then everything gets submitted to New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, Land and Water Resources."

Tim Lawton spoke. "There is a total number of acres and then a number of acres in farms, and then owned and rented. Is the acres in farm, is that actual farms being worked? Can you explain what each one of those is?"

Elaine Jardine spoke. "The numbers of acres owned by farmers and the number of acres rented by farmers, and really rented just means worked land from another. That total is the number of acres in farms in the District."

Tim Lawton spoke. "So the 29,000 number, that will be the total number of acres in the District?"

Elaine Jardine spoke. Yes, total number in the District. There can be a certain amount, up to 50% can be non-agricultural open space that has the potential for agriculture activities, so our rate runs at 78% actual agricultural land. That is the difference in those figures. If you want to I can e-mail you the new profile data. It has not changed much, just with the removal. This is what Ag and Markets requires us to compile by law."

There being no further comments, the hearing was adjourned at 1:06 P.M.