



Putnam County  
Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board  
841 Fair Street, Carmel, NY 10512

**Putnam County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board (AFPB) Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes: December 17, 2025, 9:45 am – 11:15 am**

Attendees:

Ag Board Members: Christine Nastasi, Barbara Barosa, ~~Erin Crowley~~, ~~Fred Finger~~, Ruby Koch-Fienberg, Joni Lanza - virtual, Trish McLoughlin, Cassandra Roth, Elizabeth Ryder, Nicole Scott, Dave Vickery

Other: Brett Yaris – SWCD Vice Chair, Donald Arrant – WAC Conservation Planner

- Called to order at 9:45 am
- Reviewed minutes from 11/19/25. Approved by Board
- All Board members present signed the letter of appreciation that Christine drafted to former chairwoman Jocelyn Apicello
- New language for Ag District Inclusion Criteria has passed Physical Services Committee and will be voted on by full Leg on 12/18/2025
- Accessing AFPB funds
  - AFPB's \$5,000 budget is allocated mostly for 4H fair participation and can be used for attending conferences and trainings
  - There are specific forms that board members need to submit to access these funds
  - Barb will add the forms to Sharepoint
- Ag District signs
  - Discussion was held to reinstate the practice of supplying metal signs to members approved for inclusion into the Agricultural District
  - The signs should be visibly posted to help promote the Ag District
  - Betsy will share a photo of the original Putnam Ag District sign with the board
  - Barb will get a price quote for making new signs
  - Christine will lead this project
- Other

- Dave Vickery: suggested that we create an outreach plan
  - Board discussed a few ways to start this work:
    - Review sites like the Grange calendar, CCE calendar, and county and town websites for events that relate to Rev 250 as well as Town Days and determine if we want to join in on these activities. Note that we will have a booth at the county fair on 7/25 - 26
    - Establish committees so we can share the work and ask local farmers to join the committees to support the outreach efforts
    - To assist with outreach, ask Ag District members to help with outreach at different events – see if we can partner with local farmers to bring animals or plants to these displays
  - Next steps:
    - Need to design flyers, banners, small posters for farmers to display
      - Cassandra has volunteered to spearhead designing the banners and small posters
      - Ruby will send a copy of the SWCD/ CCE flyer for inspiration
    - Explore the need to purchase tents, tables, chairs
    - Nicole will compile a list of county events
    - Cassandra will try to find Ag District member phone numbers through DPW
    - Once we have a plan in place, we will determine who will email the Putnam County farmers listserv
- Barbara Barosa: update on the grant for the Ag Protection Plan
  - Jeff Kehoe said the grant application will open in January
- David Vickery: Jeff Kehoe will be leading a training for SWCD, Ag Board, the Leg and town officials on the Ag District
  - The training has not been scheduled yet. Mostly likely March
  - It will be hosted by AFPB and SWCD. Jeff will email Christine with details
- David Vickery: likes the extended meeting time
- Adjusted the November and December meetings from the last Wednesday of the month to Nov 18th and Dec 16th at 9:45 - 11:15 am. Barb will send out calendar invites with Microsoft Teams meeting link for all 2026 meetings.
- Adjourned at 11:10 am

Next meeting: **Wednesday, January 28, 2026 @ 9:45 am**