

January 23rd, 2024 Town Board Minutes

A special meeting of the Greenfield Town Board was held January 23rd, 2024 at 7 PM with the following members present: Kevin Veitch, Supervisor; MaryAnn Johnson, Rick Capasso, Mike Gyarmathy, Ty Stacey Councilpersons and approximately 32 residents. The Supervisor opened the meeting with the Pledge to the Flag.

This meeting is about hearing the presentation of the Town of Greenfield considering applying for a Municipal Agricultural and Farmland Protection Planning Grant. Cody Sargen who resides at 450 North Creek Rd is the one who wrote the Grant along with help from the Planning and Zoning Chair's Tonya Yasenchak and Denise Eskoff. Cody will be presenting this Grant to the Town. Supervisor Veitch states that the board will not be voting on this application tonight. This is just for the board to hear the presentation, the application process and the consideration of it.

Cody and his wife Kateri run Asland Farms at 450 North Creek Rd. Cody States "I am not associated with anything or any entity that I work with outside of this group. I am not associating myself with any of my professional alliances or anything along those lines. I am strictly here as a constituent of the Town of Greenfield".

This Grant is funded by New York state Ag & Markets. Some points of this Grant are:

What is the Purpose?

"Fund local initiatives that are intended to maintain the economic viability of the State's agricultural industry and is supporting land base and to protect the environmental and landscape preservation values associated with agriculture"

Provides an opportunity for the municipality to assess their current community needs and growth potential with regards to agriculture.

Supports the farmers

Why does this Grant Exist?

Generally, 2,000 acres of ag land is lost daily.

Need to protect farmland to keep farming viable for the next generation of farmers.

Economic Impacts of Lost Farmland

Farmland supports the local economy

Farms keep the money in the local community

Environmental Impacts of Lost Farmland

Reduction of impervious surfaces

Provides habitat for wildlife

Supports pollinator habitat

Personal Impacts of Lost Farmland

Provides a community with supply chain independence

Teaches kids about where their food comes

Teaches land stewardship

What will the Grant do for Greenfield?

Preserve agricultural heritage in the community

Provide data to encourage development in areas that will elevate conflict potential

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Why Does Greenfield Need this?

Greenfield has prime farmland that is not being used
We are losing ag land and community interest in farming
1/8 of the Town's population is below the poverty level, the ability to have a flock of chickens, a small garden, or some means of growing their own food and supporting themselves
Growing Community Supported Agriculture Program

What's the Cost?

The municipality will be required to match 25% of the state contribution with cash and in-kind services

State can contribute up to \$25,000.00

Steps Before Grant Award

Grant written, Grant is Approved to be Submitted by the Town, Focus Groups are Established and Farmer Stakeholder Groups are Established

Steps After Grant Award

Town to prepare and issue RFP (Request for Proposal) for consulting, Town to select consultant and sign contract, consultant works directly with, and in, the town, Public hearings and final plan approval and Town submits final report

Cody end's the presentation with a quote from his boyhood hero "It is well to have our cities prosper, but it is not well if they prosper at the expense of the country. In this movement the lead must be taken by the farmers themselves; but our people as a whole, through their governmental agencies, should back the farmers. Everything possible should be done to better the economic condition of the farmer, and also to increase the social value of the life of the farmer, the farmer's wife, and their children"

-Theodore Roosevelt

On a motion by Capasso, C and seconded by Stacey, C the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 PM.

Town Clerk

