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Report to the Farmington Town Board on the activities and work of the Agricultural Advisory Committee for 2025

The Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) met 3 times this year. In January an afternoon informational meeting was devoted solely to the proposed Agricultural Conservation Overlay District (ACOD). There was some attendance by residents and at least one non-resident landowner. The presentation included examples of how the code could effect subdivision applications of farmland for development. Constructive questions were discussed, no outspoken opposition was noted.

At the February meeting, the committee recommended the ACOD to the Town Board for consideration. Also, at that meeting, 2 new Farmland Protection Implementation Grant applications were discussed (Sadler Brothers and Fresh Ayr Farm), and recommended for Town Board endorsement.

In October the AAC welcomed Elizabeth Klingenberg as the new committee clerk, and expressed appreciation to Paula Ruthven for her prior service in that capacity. The agriculture portion of the Open Space Index as updated by the Town Environmental Conservation Board was reviewed, and the Town Director of Planning provided an update on the status of the ACOD proposal and the County Intermunicipal Drainage Study.

There will be two vacancies on the AAC for 2026. One member has not participated in two years and we recommend they be replaced. Member John Marvin's term expires at year end, and he has announced his retirement. John has been a member of the committee since its inception, and we all would like to thank him for his dedicated involvement through so many years.

This year's growing season proved difficult for farmers in this region---an incessantly wet spring led to late planting, with significant acreage not planted, and then persistent drought through the remainder of the summer led to reduced yields. These conditions coupled with depressed commodity prices made profitability in 2025 elusive. There is always next year!

Respectfully,

Henry Adams, Chair, Town of Farmington Agricultural Advisory Committee