

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**NOTICE OF A SPECIAL PREBLE TOWN BOARD MEETING**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that a special meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Preble will be held at the Preble Town Hall on Preble Road, Preble, New York, on Thursday, June 21, 2012, at 7:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to receive public comment on the final version of the Home, Preble, Scott Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan, goals and recommendations.

**Copies of said proposed Farmland Protection Plan are available for review at the Town Clerk's Office or on the official website for the Town of Preble at [Preble-ny.org/government/special projects](http://Preble-ny.org/government/special_projects).**

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The Special Meeting was opened at 7:30 p.m. by Jim Doring, Supervisor.

Board members present: Debra Brock, Peter Knapp and Linda Riehlman

Others attending: Judy Wright, CNY Field Consultant for American Farmland Trust and Dan Dineen of the Cortland County Planning Board.

The floor was given to Judy Wright who presented a slide presentation of final version of the Homer, Preble, Scott Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan. The introduction was given by Judy: NYSDAM Grant awarded-purpose of the plan is for the community to document the importance of local farms, challenges facing local farmers and develop strategies that the Towns can implement including draft language revisions to zoning and subdivision ordinances. History of Ag has always been a part of the community. An analysis of the three towns was given and also an analysis of local conditions showing that both Homer and Preble have seen a decrease in population from 1970 to 2010. Homer had an increase of 212 housing units from 1990 to 2010 while Preble saw only 4 new houses. Scott has a population increase from 1970 to 2010 with 60 new houses between 1990 and 2010.

**The Vision Statement:** The Towns of Homer, Preble and Scott value agriculture and recognize the importance of farms in maintaining rural character and strengthening the local economy. The towns seek to proactively support agriculture by working to retain valuable farmland for current farmers to use and to provide opportunities for the next generation of farmers to be profitable. They seek to provide an economic climate to allow agricultural businesses to succeed in an evolving economy and ensure strong public support for farming in the region.

**Regional Goals: Goal #1:** Ensure land use laws and local ordinances support economic opportunities for local farmers and the protection of agricultural land.

**Goal #2:** Educate the non-farm public about the value and state of agriculture in the Towns and maintaining good relationships with neighboring farms.

**Goal #3:** Protect farmland by identifying high quality agricultural lands that are at risk for conversion and adopting appropriate agricultural protection strategies.

**Goal #4:** Ensure that local infrastructure is supportive of agriculture and that public infrastructure improvements are targeted near the City of Cortland and other developed areas.

**Goal #5:** Enhance the local agricultural economy and support agricultural economic development initiatives on a regional and county level.

**Town Goals:** Many of the priorities originate from the regional goals and recommendations and have been repeated if they are relevant to that particular town. Some of the recommendations are targeted towards town-specific policies and programs while others describe actions relevant to the three-town region.

**Foundation Actions:** Three Foundation Actions were identified as critical to support the plan and the implementation of the following Regional Goals and Town Goals. The three Foundation Actions are: (1) Create a Joint Implementation Committee-It was determined by all the towns during the Goals and Recommendations reviews that a specific Town or Regional Advisory

Committee was necessary but the three towns felt that had adequate farmer/agricultural representation on all the boards and a new committee would be duplicative; (2) Aggressively seek funding for plan implementation; and (3) Support and coordinate implementation efforts with organizations, agencies and programs that assist farmers and farmland owners.

**Recommendations & Actions:** Goal #1: Ensure land use laws and local ordinances support economic opportunities for local farmers and the protection of agricultural land.

**Recommendations:** Educate about the Real Estate Disclosure Notice; Annually provide information about tax relief including Ag District Open Enrollment in November; Promote locally grown products; Update County Agriculture Farmland Protection Plan, and Support Ag Business Development Coordinator position with BDC-IDA.

There was a short discussion period.

Copies of the proposed Farmland Protection Plan are available at the Town Clerk's Office or on the official website for the Town of Preble at [Preble-ny.org/government/special\\_projects](http://Preble-ny.org/government/special_projects).

Judy Wright stated that they are shooting for August to have the project completed.

Dan Dineen presented the Board with 4 maps of Preble: Land Use, Farmland Importance, Topography & Hydrography, and Agricultural Prioritization Area

Homer's public hearing will be August 8<sup>th</sup>.

Peter Knapp moved to close the public hearing, seconded by Linda Riehlman at 8:44; public hearing closed.

Debra Brock moved to adjourn the Special Meeting, seconded by Linda Riehlman; meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted ,

Unofficial 06/21/2012  
Official

Jane W. Davenport  
Town Clerk