

**PUBLIC HEARING
ON INCLUSION IN THE AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
TO BE HELD BY THE
PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE
IN THE
HISTORIC COURTHOUSE
CARMEL, NEW YORK 10512**

Wednesday July 5, 2017 6:45 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 6:49 P.M. by Chairwoman Nacerino who requested that Legislator Gouldman lead in the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon roll call, Legislators Scuccimarra, Gouldman, Addonizio, Albano, Jonke, Castellano, LoBue and Chairwoman Nacerino were present. Legislator Sullivan was absent. Also present was Legislative Counsel Firriolo.

Chairwoman Nacerino requested the Clerk to read the Public Notice:

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to Article 25-AA of the Agriculture and Markets Law of the State of New York, Section 303-b, that one or more requests have been received by the Putnam County Legislature for inclusion of predominately viable agricultural land within Putnam County's certified Agricultural District.

FURTHER NOTICE is hereby given that the Putnam County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board has considered these requests for inclusion and reported that the parcels for inclusion would serve the public interest by assisting in maintaining a viable agricultural industry within the District.

FURTHER NOTICE is hereby given that the parcels requested for inclusion are:

Town of Philipstown:

Fen's Edge LLC – Ann Hammond – Tax Map #17.-3-31.2 (4.78 acres) Total Acreage: 4.78

Town of Carmel:

Iacuone Acres – Terry Iacuone – Tax Map #53.15-1-32 (6.8 acres) Total Acreage: 6.8

Town of Putnam Valley:

Cimarron Ranch & Valley View Farm – Alexander Kaspar – Tax Map #72.-1-47 (25.18 acres) Tax Map #72.-1-50 (110 acres) Tax Map #83.-1-1 (231.28 acres) Tax Map #83.-1-11 (60.41 acres) Total Acreage: 434.87

For a total of 446.45 acres.

FURTHER NOTICE is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held on Wednesday, July 5, 2017 at 6:45 P.M. in the Historic Courthouse, Carmel, New York, to consider these requests for inclusion and the recommendations of the Putnam County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Board.

BY ORDER OF THE PUTNAM COUNTY LEGISLATURE

**Diane Schonfeld
Clerk**

Chairwoman Nacerino requested that anyone wishing to speak should come up to the microphone, state their name and the town in which they reside.

Alexander Kaspar of Putnam Valley stated he has owned property in Putnam Valley for over 20 years. He stated he pays over \$100,000 in taxes per year. He stated he would appreciate the Town and County allowing him to make money off of farming his land so he could pay his taxes. He stated Putnam County is the last county in New York State to have an Agricultural District. He stated there is no reason for it to have taken that long. He stated Putnam County is the only county in the United States that has a resolution which says that people with violations cannot be in the Agricultural District. He stated he was the first Chairman of the Agricultural Board and created the District. He stated he wishes more land was in the District. He read a letter from Putnam Valley Supervisor Sam Oliverio into the record. He read a letter from Michael Latham of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Department which cites the Agriculture and Markets Law. He stated it says that you cannot use violations against people. He stated it would be shame on Putnam County if his parcels are not accepted into the Agricultural District. He stated he has the largest privately owned acreage in the county.

Sam Oliverio, Town of Putnam Valley Supervisor, stated the letter Mr. Kaspar referenced was written in 2006 after Mr. Kaspar showed him his land. He stated at the time he did not know the land was being contaminated by construction debris. He stated the New York State Agricultural District condemned the land and ordered it to be closed. He stated the Town went to the DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation) and they also sought to close the land down. He stated the land is in receivership due to the DEC not being satisfied with Mr. Kaspar's remedies. He stated he sees that the Agricultural Board has not recommended Mr. Kaspar's parcels for inclusion and he applauds that decision. He believed that if Mr. Kaspar and his land are accepted into the Agricultural District, it would not be cleaned up. He stated he has explained to Mr. Kaspar that if he cleans up his land and stops accepting construction debris then he would have the support of the Town to do true agricultural work. He stated Mr. Kaspar does not currently do true agricultural work, it is work that destroys pristine land. He stated he has files of letters from residents around Mr. Kaspar's land about the amount of construction debris brought to the property. He requested that the Legislature follow the lead of the Agricultural Board and deny Agricultural District status to Mr. Kaspar's parcels.

Mr. Kaspar stated Supervisor Oliverio is mistaken. He stated he meets with the DEC on a bi-monthly basis and has a very good relationship with them. He listed some of the things that grow on the property. He stated most of what Supervisor Oliverio mentioned is 10 years old. He stated he spent \$250,000 on rectifying past issues. He stated he is not allowed to build greenhouses.

There being no member of the public wishing to speak, at 7:05 p.m., Chairwoman Nacerino made a motion to adjourn; Seconded by Legislator LoBue. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Administrative Assistant Ed Gordon.