

Adopting The Inclusion Of Additional Lands In Agricultural Districts Within Ulster County As Recommended By The Ulster County Agricultural And Farmland Protection Board – Department Of Planning

Referred to: The Economic Development, Planning, Education, Employment, Arts and Agriculture Committee (Chairwoman Sperry and Legislators Clinton, Corcoran, Hewitt, Litts, Stewart and Walls)

Chairwoman of the Economic Development, Planning, Education, Employment, Arts and Agriculture Committee, Megan Sperry, and Deputy Chair Herbert Litts, III offer the following:

WHEREAS, this Resolution has been submitted at the request of the County Executive on behalf of the Department of Planning; and

WHEREAS, consistent with §303(b) of New York Agriculture and Markets Law (AML), Ulster County established an annual 30-day review period from March 1st to March 30th, for farmers to request the inclusion of additional lands in Agricultural Districts within Ulster County; and

WHEREAS, during the review period for 2025, eight (8) applications were submitted to the Ulster County Legislature, consisting of seventeen (17) parcels with a total of approximately eight hundred ten (810) acres; and

WHEREAS, on May 20, 2025, the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature transmitted the requests for inclusion to the Agricultural Farmland Protection Board (AFPB) for their recommendations as required under §303(b) of the AML; and

WHEREAS, the AFPB met and reviewed the requests on May 29, 2025, and after consideration of the factors required under §303(b) of the AML, by a majority vote of its members, recommended the inclusion of additional lands in Agricultural Districts within Ulster County; and

WHEREAS, the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board has filed this recommendation and supporting documentation with the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature, thereby fulfilling its obligations under §303(b) of the AML; and

WHEREAS, The Ulster County Legislature held the required public hearing on June 17, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the addition of lands to Agricultural Districts with respect to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (Part 617 NYCRR) is considered an Unlisted Action, and an Environmental Assessment Form has been completed and filed with the Clerk of the Legislature; now, therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature finds, after review of the Environmental Assessment Form and the recommendation of the Agricultural Farmland Protection Board, for the inclusion of lands within agricultural districts, as filed with the Clerk of the Legislature, that no significant adverse environmental impacts will occur as a result of this action, and a Negative Declaration is adopted under NYCRR Part 617.7 (SEQRA); and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature adopts the recommendation of the AFPB as filed with the Clerk of the Legislature, which includes the placement of additional lands within existing agricultural districts in Ulster County totaling sixteen (16) parcels and approximately eight hundred two (802) acres; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature shall submit this resolution, a copy of the AFPB report, and other material as required under Agriculture and Markets Law Article 25-AA – Agricultural Districts, to the New York State Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets requesting that the Commissioner certify the inclusion of these lands in an agricultural district if feasible and in the public interest,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

Passed Committee: Economic Development, Planning, Education, Employment, Arts and Agriculture on July 1, 2025

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE

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Legislator Nolan motioned, seconded by Legislator Kovacs, to refer the Resolution back to the Economic Development, Planning, Education, Employment, Arts and Agriculture Committee.

MOTION ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 23 NOES: 0

**REFERRED TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING, EDUCATION,
EMPLOYMENT, ARTS AND AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE**