



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & MARKETS
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David Paterson
Governor

Patrick Hooker
Commissioner

November 15, 2010

Mr. James C. Merrick
Town Supervisor
Town of Groveland
4955 Aten Road
Groveland, New York, 14462

RE: Municipal Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan

Dear James:

We have concluded our review of the Town of Groveland Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan which was adopted by the Town Board on October 15, 2010 and approved by the Livingston County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board on July 1, 2010. Pursuant to section 324-a of the Agriculture and Markets Law, and consistent with the legislative intent of Article 25-AAA of the AML to promote local initiatives for agricultural and farmland protection, I approve the plan.

I wish to commend the Town Board and the Farmland Protection Advisory Committee for their initiatives and efforts in developing the plan. We look forward to working cooperatively with you in furthering the protection and development of farm operations and agricultural resources in the Town of Groveland.

The Plan contains a number of very good recommendations including establishing a new zoning district where farming would be the dominant land use. The identification of this Agricultural Protection Area could assist in reducing fragmentation of viable and productive farmland and serve as a state-wide model for other regions in the state. The Plan also calls for updating subdivision and other zoning regulations to avoid reliance on conventional large lot zoning.

I commend the Town for deciding to establish a standing Agricultural Advisory Committee to help implement the recommendations in the Plan. Please inform the Department when this Committee is formally established.

We urge you to move forward with the implementation of these key recommendations to protect agriculture in the Town of Groveland. Thank you for your continued support of New York agriculture.

Sincerely,

Patrick Hooker
Commissioner

C: Virginia O. Amico, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Angela Ellis, Director, Livingston County Planning Department
Jon White, Chair, Livingston County AFPB