

*Public Hearing
Adoption of New NYS Agriculture & Markets
Agricultural Districts SEQR Short Environmental Assessment Form
September 22, 2022*

The Public Hearing on the adoption of the new NYS Agriculture & Markets Agricultural Districts SEQR Short Environmental Assessment Form was called to order by the Chair at 10:00 A.M. Six Legislative members were present with Legislators Hollenbeck, Mullen, and Weston being absent.

There were 15 people in attendance.

The Clerk read the legal notice as published in the official newspapers.

County Planning Director Jardine spoke. "I just wanted to explain that Ag & Markets recently got sued by some residents in Suffolk County for not doing SEQR process correctly for agricultural district reviews either in the annual inclusion process or the 8-year review process. So, part of the fix for this is the adoption of this new SEQR Short Form just for agricultural district modifications. Following this public hearing, the Legislature can move forward with adopting the new form. This is the process that is being pursued in Tioga County."

Legislator Standinger spoke. "How does this new SEQR form benefit us?"

County Planning Director spoke. "We were doing the SEQR process incorrectly for agricultural district reviews. We were not considering NYS Agriculture & Markets as the lead agency. We were considering Tioga County as the lead agency, which was not right. So, we are going through this whole process of the new SEQR Form and next month I will have a cooperative agreement for the Legislature to consider, as well as a resolution to adopt the new SEQR Form and then we will be doing the process correctly. We are following the direction from NYS Agriculture & Markets."

There being no public comments, the hearing was adjourned at 10:03 A.M.