

# Parks & Environment Meeting Agenda



Committee Chair: David Tubiolo

800 Michaelian Office Bldg.  
148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor  
White Plains, NY 10601  
[www.westchesterlegislators.com](http://www.westchesterlegislators.com)

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**Monday, April 7, 2025**

**10:00 AM**

**Committee Room**

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**Joint with B&A, ITC, and PWT**

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Please note: Meetings of the Board of Legislators and its committees are held at the Michaelian Office Building, 148 Martine Avenue, White Plains, New York, 10601, and remotely via the WebEx video conferencing system. Legislators may participate in person or via Webex. Members of the public may attend meetings in person at any of its locations, or view it online on the Westchester County Legislature's website: <https://westchestercountyny.legistar.com/> This website also provides links to materials for all matters to be discussed at a given meeting.

## **MINUTES APPROVAL**

Monday, March 24, 2025 at 10:00 AM Minutes

Monday, February 10, 2025 at 10:00 AM Minutes

Monday, January 27, 2025 at 2:00 PM Minutes

Wednesday, January 22, 2025 at 11:00 AM Minutes

Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at 2:00 PM Minutes

## **I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

Discussion on the Capital Project Tracking System

Guests: Budget Department  
Director Larry Soule  
Deputy Director Christina Rampata  
Associate Budget Director Dianne Vanadia

## **II. OTHER BUSINESS**

### III. RECEIVE & FILE

[2025-89](#)

**CLERK OF THE BOARD - Recertification of Agricultural District No.**

**1**

Forwarding correspondence from the Town of North Castle regarding the Recertification of Westchester County Agricultural District Number One.

***COMMITTEE REFERRAL: COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC WORKS & TRANSPORTATION AND PARKS & ENVIRONMENT***

### ADJOURNMENT



## TOWN OF NORTH CASTLE

Town Hall - 15 Bedford Road  
Armonk, New York 10504  
northcastleny.com

Established 1736

Joseph A. Rende  
Supervisor

(914) 273-3000 x53  
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February 5, 2025

Clerk of the Board of Legislators  
Vedat Gashi, Chair and  
Board of Legislator Members  
County Board of Legislators  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Michaelian Office Bldg.  
148 Martine Avenue  
White Plains, NY 10601

**Re: Recertification of Westchester County Agricultural District Number One**

The Town of North Castle has had a long agrarian history with farming being North Castle's principal industry prior to 1850. However, by the beginning of the twentieth century, wealthy families from New York City began to purchase farms to create large summer estates. Since that time the farmland to residential conversion process has continued apace so that agricultural land now constitutes only a small fraction of total land acreage within the Town. Over the last one hundred years North Castle has had to address balancing the desire to preserve the Town's farming roots with the reality of the Town being a very desirable residential community.

The Town of North Castle, as a Hudson River Valley Greenway *Compact Community*, has expressed its commitment to scenic, natural, historic, cultural and recreation resources, including farmland protection and farmland economic development strategies. The Town encourages the protection of farmland and discourages its further conversion to residential uses by expressly permitting farm uses and horse breeding and boarding in almost every zoning district and within all residential zoning districts within the Town of North Castle.

The Town of North Castle is concerned, however, that if property were placed in the Agricultural District, the property owner may petition the NYS Dept of Agriculture and Markets to review our local Town Code in order to determine whether our existing regulations regarding farming and horse breeding are "unreasonably restrictive" for a farmer in the Agricultural District. If a determination were to be made that our laws are too onerous, it is possible that our local regulations will be found in violation of the Agriculture and Markets law, and we will need to exempt this class of use from

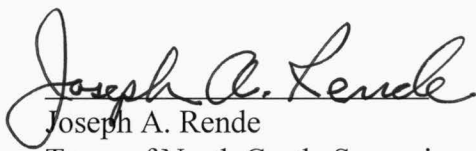
local land use control. The Town of North Castle feels that if such a determination were made that it would negatively impact the health, safety and general welfare of the residents of North Castle.

It is noted that Westchester County is very different from some of our more rural counties in other parts of New York State. In Westchester County, and North Castle in particular, it is likely that any farm use will be in close proximity to residential uses, commercial uses or environmentally sensitive areas. While the Town encourages farming within the community, the Town acknowledges a need to regulate the land use and environmental impacts a farm may have upon surrounding properties given the suburban nature of the Town of North Castle.

In addition, the Town recognizes the need to ensure that the development of land, including farmland, is environmentally sensitive. The majority of undeveloped land within the Town of North Castle is environmentally constrained by wetlands, floodplains or steep slopes. Since many farming operations require disturbance to sensitive areas, the Town must evaluate whether any proposed site disturbance would have negative impacts on our environment.


Based upon the above, the Town requests that North Castle continue to be excluded from Westchester County Agricultural District Number One.

Sincerely,



Joseph A. Rende

Town of North Castle Supervisor



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Adam R. Kaufman, AICP  
Town of North Castle  
Director of Planning

cc: Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board of West. County – [David Kvinge – 995-3780]  
Town of North Castle Town Board