

Alloway Township Agricultural Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes - September 11, 2014

Members Present: Ron Vassallo, Chairman, Beth Finlaw, Louis Joyce, Chuck Mihlebach, Jack Schultz, Walt Turner. Absent: Al Mitchell, Don Smith.

Committeewoman Finlaw administered the Oath of Office to Louis Joyce and Walt Turner.

Chairman Vassallo called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm. Mr. Joyce was appointed as Secretary.

The last meeting was July 10. No formal business was conducted, and no minutes were taken.

The committee reviewed the August 12 letter from Susan Payne explaining the proposed legislation on future preservation funding. Mr. Joyce offered that if the funds are diverted to preservation it will diminish the current DEP funding for maintenance of parks, open space and historic sites will be lost.

Beth Finlaw reviewed the Township Committee response to the request for use of funds for the ancillary costs for the preservation of the Matthews, McAlonan, Ray, Robbins and Chard farms. The Township advised Kris Alexander on August 28 that the Township agrees to fund the costs, but not to exceed the available funds in the open space and farmland preservation account. The Board will get an accounting of the fund for the next meeting. It was expressed that the Township should consider raising additional funds in the next budget.

The Board discussed the procedure for ranking applications. Copies of the Township Agricultural Preservation Plan will be reviewed at the next meeting. Mr. Joyce offered to get updated township maps for the next meeting, also.

Items to be discussed at the next meeting are: account balances; updated preservation map to be provided by the County; review of the application and ranking procedure in the Plan; (Beth and Ron will seek to retrieve copies from former members); and a review of the criteria for County, State and local applications.

Next meeting will be November 13, 2014.

On motion by Turner, second by Mihlebach the meeting was adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Louis Joyce, Secretary

Approved: November 13, 2013