

Alloway Township Agricultural Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes - March 12, 2015

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

Chairman Vassallo called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

The meeting minutes from January 8, 2015 were adopted on motion by Mitchell, second by Schultz and unanimously approved.

Old Business:

The Committee discussed the boundaries of the Township Project Area, and proposals for additions to the Project Area. The additional costs for the Chard survey due to the necessity to establish the Township boundary. The Committee expressed support for the increase but it will have to be approved by Township Committee.

New Business:

Mr. Steve Bruder from State Agricultural Development Committee (SADC) attended the meeting. He was present to inform the Committee of current actions at the state level. He reported that future state funding will drop from \$70M to \$20M per year and municipal funding reducing from \$1.5M to \$500K per year. He gave a history of the Township P.I.G. which started in 2007, and focused on preserving large areas, a preservation density rather than individual farms. He handed out a map showing all preserved areas. The County ADA was discussed and their minimum is 25 acres, with the SADC minimum being 92 acres.

It was discussed about opening up the Township Target Area to deal with the impact on other target farms and how to change the boundaries. It was questioned about changes to the boundary in response to individual requests, but the SADC will have a final say on changes. Mr. Bruder reviewed the areas that the Committee was considering for adding to the Project Area and agreed they could be proposed in the P.I.G.

Richard Reick appeared and requested his property be considered. The Committee also reviewed a request from Benjamin Gentile for inclusion. The Board had previously reviewed requests from NJ Conservation and Kurt Sickler.

A motion was made by Mihlebach to add the proposed properties to the Project Map, and was seconded by Schultz. It was approved by unanimous vote. The map additions are to be presented to Township Committee for concurrence. Mr. Joyce will attend the Township Committee and then ask the County to modify the map for the Committee.

Alloway Agricultural Advisory Board
March 12, 2015 Page 2

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm on motion by Mitchell, second by Turner, unanimously approved.

Next meeting will be May 14, 2015.

Louis Joyce, Secretary

Approved: May 14, 2015