

# Alloway Township Agriculture Advisory Committee

Minutes  
March 14, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jack Schultz at 7:35pm.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Schultz.

**Roll call:** present - Jack Schultz, Al Mitchell, Lou Joyce , Ron Vassallo, Brian Lorenz, Warren Morgan, Twp Committee liaison. Absent- Brian Dolbow, Walt Turner

Others Present: Katie Mazzella, SADC; Fran Rapa, NJCF.

The minutes from the January 10, 2019 meeting were approved, on motion by Mr. Mitchell, 2nd by Mr. Lorenz , all in favor.

## **Old Business:**

a. Report from Salem CADB: no report.

b. Report from SADC:

Ms. Katie Mazzella provided the SADC Partner Update hand-out. She reported that the township PIG Grant funding for 2020 has been approved for \$500,000 it should appear in the account by May. She provided a current fund report showing approvals for the Sickler and Gentile acquisitions. The current Township PIG Grant balance is \$38,500.66. She indicated that SADC has met with Salem County about expanding the County Agricultural Development Area (ADA). She also explained the programs minimum acreages. The SADC Direct Easement minimum is 92 acres and Salem County is 25 acres. The Alloway target farms have a 10 acre minimum which can be less under specific conditions outlined in the Township plan.

c. Report from NJCF:

Mr. Fran Rapa updated the Committee on the Federal Farm Bill passage which renews the Federal Farm and Ranch Preservation Program (FRPP) that has provided much of the matching funds for the NJCF/Township preservation activities. NJCF has received approvals SADC for two properties in the Township which are outside of the Township Project Area, and will now proceed to apply to FRPP to complete the acquisitions.

d. The Township Trust Fund balance report was received from the Township Treasurer.

The Open Space/Farmland Preservation Fund beginning balance was \$77,181. Encumbrances of \$20,550 for completed projects were canceled and credited back to the account. Current costs are \$7,585.00 leaving a current balance in the fund of \$90,146.40. Upcoming costs for the Sickler and Gentile farms soft costs will be deducted from the balance.

## **New Business:**

Mr. Vassallo asked if the State could provide a program for income tax exemption or relief for funds received by land owners to enhance the value of the funds received. Ms. Mazzella responded that the

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SADC was working on a tax guidance and possible installment payment program to address the tax issue.

Mr. Joyce indicated that the next meeting's business will be to review the current applications and their rankings and to provide an updated listing of active applications.

Committeeman Morgan stated that the Township supports the activities of the Advisory Committee.

The 2020 SADC Target Farm Map was reviewed with Ms. Mazzella with the members providing ownership and contact information for target farms that SADC can pursue for the Direct Easement program. Ms. Mazzella also offered that SADC can partner with the Township with federal funds for some purchases that qualify in the Township Project Area.

### **Public Comment:**

Mrs. Bell questioned the timing and process for Township Project Area map amendments and approvals of target farm status . No other public comment was received.

Chairman Schultz announced the next meeting is scheduled for May 9, 2019.

Meeting adjourned 8:42 pm on motion of Mr. Mitchell, 2nd Mr. Lorenz and unanimously approved.

Louis C. Joyce  
Secretary

**Approved: May 9, 2019**