

# Alloway Township Agriculture Advisory Committee

## Minutes

November 14, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Schultz at 7:30pm.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Schultz.

**Roll call:** present - Jack Schultz, Al Mitchell, Lou Joyce, Walt Turner, Brian Lorenz, Warren Morgan, Twp committee liaison.

Absent- Ron Vassallo, Brian Dolbow

Others Present: Katie Mazzella, SADC

The minutes from the September 12, 2019 meeting were discussed. Minutes approved on motion by Mr. Lorenz, 2nd by Mr. Mitchell, all in favor, Mr. Turner abstained.

### **Old Business:**

a. Report from Salem CADB: No updated reported.

b. Report from SADC:

Ms. Mazzella reported that the minimum acreage for State Direct Easement program has been increased to 94 acres for priority farms in Salem County, but will be 65 - 94 acres for alternate ranked farms. The State has a strong fund balance and she was confident that some Salem County and Township alternate farms will qualify. She confirmed that the Township PIG Grant balance is \$528,264.09. The SADC is drafting new and revised rules that cover soil protection and special occasion events on preserved farms. The SADC will be looking for comments by January 31, 2020.

c. Report from NJCF: Fran Rapa sent an email report. He stated that NJCF will be applying for NRCS 2020 funds. The NJCF is interested in applying for "any eligible farm that Alloway wants to preserve, including the Rieck and Bell farms." Further, he reported that he and Ms. Mazzella met with Mr. and Mrs. Read following the September meeting. He reported that the Parave application was proceeding with appraisals received and formal agreements expected. Finally, he reported attending the September 19 Township Committee meeting to accept the letter of appreciation to NJCF and thanked the ATAAC for our support.

d. The Township Trust Fund balance report from September 28, 2019 was reviewed. The report documented receipts for reimbursement of soft costs for Gentile of \$5,104, Sickler of \$4,397.50 and deposit of 2019 Open Space/Farmland tax of \$14,088.50. The fund balance is \$93,458.25.

e. Maps were presented for review by Ms. Mazzella. Ms. Mazzella reviewed the current State Target farms that are being processed for approval.

### **New Business:**

Updates to the Township Target farms for the 2021 PIG grant application were discussed. Update for the 2021 PIG Grant Application may be provided in letter form as opposed to revision to the full application. Two farms were discussed.

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Minutes

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On motion by Mr. Turner with 2nd by Mr. Lorenz to add the Ayars (Block 11 Lot 16) and the Read (Block 37 Lot 17) properties as Township target farms was approved by unanimous vote.

Reexamination and update to the Township Farmland Preservation Plan was discussed. SADC will be providing matching grant funds for the required 10 year update. The Committee indicated it will be seeking the matching funds in the 2020 Township budget. Mr. Joyce will contact the Township Planner for a proposal for the reexamination of the Plan.

The Committee meeting schedule for 2020 was approved. The Committee agreed to continue to meet on the second Thursday of alternate months starting in January.

On motion by Mr. Lorenz with 2nd by Mr. Turner the meeting dates of: 1/9, 3/12, 5/14, 7/9, 9/10, 11/12/20 and 1/14/2021 were adopted by unanimous vote.

The terms of the committee members were reviewed. Members will seek volunteers to fill upcoming vacancies and recommend names to Mr. Morgan in time for Township Committee reorganization in January.

**Public Comment:** no comments received.

Chairman Schultz announced the next meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2020.

Meeting adjourned 8:23 pm on motion of Mr. Turner, 2nd Mr. Lorenz and unanimously approved.

Louis C. Joyce  
Secretary

**Approved: January 9, 2020**