

Alloway Township Agriculture Advisory Board

Minutes

November 12, 2020

The meeting was conducted by a Zoom virtual platform. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Schultz at 7:31pm.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chairman Schultz.

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

Absent- Walt Turner, Kurt Sickler

Others present - Katie Mazzella, SADC, Fran Rapa, NJCF, Randall Scheule, PP, Township Planner

The minutes from the September 10, 2020 meeting were discussed. Minutes approved on motion by Mr. Mitchell, 2nd by Mr. Lorenz, all in favor.

Old Business:

Report from Salem County CADB: no report

Report from SADC:

Ms. Mazzella provided a report on active applications. She said that funding on the federal level for the Rieck and Bell applications has been approved and appraisals were authorized by Township Committee and are underway. The County has received an application from Donald and Dale Smith. State Direct Easement applications for Mehaffey and Hitchner are proceeding. The Ayars application moved to the offer and acceptance stage. She mentioned the SADC Soil Protection rules hearing on 12/3 and work on a future acquisition strategy.

She reported that the Township PIG Grant balance is \$528,254.09 and provided the Committee with a report of all preserved farms in the Township.

Report from NJCF:

Mr. Rapa reported on work with the County on approving the appraisals for Bell and Rieck properties and approval of the NRCS matching funds. NJCF hopes to close on the Parave farm by year's end as the deed language has now been approved. Mr. Rapa reported that he will be retiring at the end of 2020 and thanked the Committee and Township for their cooperation and success over the years with the preservation efforts. The Committee also commended Mr. Rapa for the excellent work he has done in the Township.

Report from Township Planner:

Randall Scheule proceeded to review the first three chapters of the 2010 Plan that he provided to the Committee. He is updating salient aspects including population data and farm data. He said this is not a total rewrite of the plan but a targeted update. As of September 8, 2020, the Township has preserved 4,125 acres of farmland exceeding the 2020 goal of 4,110 acres set in the 2010 Farmland Preservation Plan. He will address the role of the Committee in preservation, update mapping, update the "impediments to preservation" section and the section on cooperation with NJCF. He indicated that

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upon completion of the update the report will be presented to the Township Planning Board for a public hearing and adoption into the Master Plan. It was suggested that an update be provided to the Planning Board and Mr. Joyce and Mr. Scheule will follow up.

The Township Trust Fund balance report was not received in time for the meeting. (Note: subsequent to the meeting the Township Treasurer reported that the fund received \$14,137 from the 2021 tax, and has an unencumbered balance of \$99,752.)

New Business:

Mr. Joyce reported that the 2021 meeting schedule needed to be adopted. The Committee agreed to maintain the current schedule of the 2nd Thursday of alternate months at 7:30 PM. The 2021 meeting dates will be: 1/14, 3/11, 5/13, 7/8, 9/9, 11/11, and reorganization on January 13, 2022.

On motion by Brian Lorenz, 2nd by Al Mitchell the meeting dates were unanimously approved.

Mr. Joyce reported that the 2022 Annual PIG Grant Application was prepared for approval including the addition of the Goss and Pierce properties. The Committee reviewed the Project Area map. A Township Resolution supporting the application will be required prior to submitting the PIG Grant to SADC.

On motion by Jack Schultz, 2nd by Al Mitchell the 2022 PIG Grant Application was approved for transmittal to Township Committee and to SADC. Vote was unanimous.

Public Comment:

No comment received.

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm on motion by Mr. Mitchell, with 2nd by Ms. Priore and unanimously approved.

Reorganization and next regular meeting date is January 14, 2021.

Louis C. Joyce
Secretary

Approved: January 14, 2021