

Alloway Township Agriculture Advisory Board

Minutes - Draft

May 13, 2021

The meeting was conducted by a Zoom virtual platform. 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, Brian Lorenz, Warren Morgan, Twp committee liaison.

Absent- Walt Turner, Kurt Sickler, Talia Priore

Others present - Katie Mazzella, SADC, Rob Ferber, NJCF

The minutes from the March 11, 2021 meeting were presented. Minutes approved on motion by Mr. Mitchell, 2nd by Mr. Lorenz, all in favor.

The members welcomed Mr. Ferber as the new NJCF area manager succeeding Fran Rapa who retired.

Old Business:

Report from Salem County CADB: no report. Mr. Joyce reported that Township Committee approved the contract with Kris Alexander to continue as Farmland Preservation Administrator for 2021.

Report from SADC:

Ms. Mazzella provided a report on active applications. She said that appraisals for the Bell application were completed sent to NRCS; offer has been accepted on the Rieck property. Pat Ayars has accepted the offer and the title work had no bids received and SADC looking for solution, the survey is proceeding. She responded later to question of SADC participation in the Pierce and Goss properties and Mr. Joyce will forward applications on file. Smith farm proceeding as a County project. Mr. Morgan inquired about the road frontage on the farms.

Report from NJCF: no formal report, but Mr. Ferber indicated he is coming up to speed on the Township target farms and requested a current map and also copy of the Farmland Preservation Plan update.

Report from Township Planner: no report; Mr. Joyce said the plan has been submitted to SADC and Mr. Bruder indicated he will be reviewing it in the next week.

Mr. Joyce reminded that the latest Township preservation map is dated November 12, 2020.

The Township Trust Fund balance report from April indicated that the 2021 dedicated tax of \$14,148 was credited to the account. Disbursements of \$6,000 to NJCF for Parave and \$19,412 for Township share of the Bell farm were made. The current balance shown is \$129,148. Expenses anticipated for survey and title work on pending acquisitions will diminish the total. Mr. Joyce indicated that the Township Committee approved resolution 21-45 establishing the Farmland/Open Space tax rate at one/half cent (\$0.005) for 2021.

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New Business:

Committeeman Morgan mentioned that the Shivers farm was sold. Mr. Joyce indicated he had been contacted about the property on Stockington Block 30 Lot 54 and will look to include on target farm list. The committee indicated that the next meeting should be able to be in person pending any changes in NJ and local Covid guidelines.

Public Comment:

Mrs. Bell complimented the Committee on its work.

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm on motion by Mr. Schultz, with 2nd by Mr. Lorenz and unanimously approved.

Louis C. Joyce
Secretary

Approved: DRAFT subject to approval at next regular meeting.