

# Alloway Township Agriculture Advisory Committee

## Minutes

September 14, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Schultz at 7:30pm. Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Schultz.

**Roll call:** present - Jack Schultz, Al Mitchell, Lou Joyce, Brian Lorenz, John Blankenship, Warren Morgan.  
Absent- Walt Turner  
Others present – Katie Mazzella, SADC; Rob Ferber, NJCF

Minutes from March 9, 2023 were approved on motion by Mr. Mitchell, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Lorenz with unanimous vote.

Minutes from May 11, 2023 were approved on motion by Mr. Mitchell, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Blankenship with unanimous vote, and Mr. Joyce abstention.

### **Old Business:**

Report from Salem County: No updates available.

Report from SADC: Ms. Mazzella reported she is working on three direct easement purchases that are nearing completion – VanMeter 50ac, and two parcels from McAlister of 27ac. and 67ac. She said the Township PIG base grant balance is \$308,000 and there is an additional \$1MM available in the competitive grant. She also said the Soil Protection Standards rule update is scheduled for a public hearing and may be controversial for some landowners.

Report from NJCF: Mr. Ferber has had contact with some landowners that the Committee recommended but has not received any responses. He said the NJCF transferred lands in Quinton to the Cohanzik tribe to be a working educational center. While he has no active applications in the Township he confirmed he will help as needed on any funding opportunities.

Farmland Preservation Plan Update: Mr. Joyce reported that the SADC has formally approved Plan as submitted, and he will check to see if it has been published on the Township website. He will check with Mr. Scheule about getting copies printed for the members.

Township trust fund: Reports from the treasurer indicated that the 2023 open space/farmland tax of \$14,325 was received and the current fund balance is \$143,428.40.

### **New Business:**

Members reviewed the latest state mapping for the Township and discussed areas to target for acquisition. The SADC will target the larger parcel and suggested that the Township look to fill in smaller parcels or to identify a cluster in a focused section of the Township. The Committee will further discuss acquisition strategy at the next meeting. Ms. Mazzella indicated that the map wasn't fully up to date, and she will have SADC create a new one including the parcels included in the 2023 Township Farmland Plan update.

**Public Comment:** No public in attendance.

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Minutes

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Meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm on motion by Mr. Mitchell, with 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Blankenship and unanimously approved.

Louis Joyce,  
Secretary

Next Meeting: November 9, 2023

**Approved : November 9, 2023**