

# Alloway Township Agriculture Advisory Committee

Minutes

November 9, 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,.

Absent- John Blankenship, Warren Morgan, Walt Turner

Others present – none

Minutes from September 14 were approved on motion by Mr. Mitchell, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Lorenz with unanimous vote.

## **Old Business:**

Report from Salem County: No updates available.

Report from SADC: Ms. Mazzella submitted a report via email. The following is quoted in part from her submission: "I am not going to make it to the meeting tonight. You still have \$308,664 in your base grant and at least a million in the competitive fund.

My recommendations for outreach are to send letters to previous applicants whom you haven't heard from and also to pick a few farms that are either holes in the donut, at risk of sale to development, or otherwise high quality that you want to target. You can put my contact info on them if you'd like, but, if it is okay with Rob, his contact info might be a little better if people would rather not talk directly with the state if they have questions. Whatever you think is better is fine with me."

Report from NJCF: Mr. Ferber had no update on NJCF activities.

Farmland Preservation Plan Update: Mr. Joyce reported the 2023 Plan has been published on the Township website. He will check with Mr. Scheule about getting copies printed for the members and will ask Township for approval for approximately \$496.00 +/- for printing 10 copies for official files and members.

Letters to landowner of Target farms: it was concluded to identify first phase of outreach at the 2024 meeting and subsequent meetings on a selective basis.

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:**

2025 PIG Grant Application: on motion by Mr. Mitchell, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Lorenz it was approved to submit the 2025 application to Township Committee for approval to then submit to SADC. Approved by unanimous vote.

2024 Committee appointments were reviewed with the current members' whose terms expire at the end of the year agreeing to continue on the Committee. Secretary Joyce will send recommendations to the Township Clerk.

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## Minutes

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2004 meeting schedule was addressed with a unanimous vote to keep the current format being the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of every other month beginning in January 2024. On motion by Mr. Mitchell, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Lorenz the following schedule for 2024 as approved by unanimous vote:  
Jan 9, Mar 14, May 9, Jul 11, Sept 12, Nov 14 and Jan 9, 2025.

Discussion was held regarding the lack of maintenance to NJDEP managed public lands in the Township that diminished the agricultural value of the lands, damaging active adjacent farms with windblown transmission of weed seeds and endangered the public with lack of roadside visibility for potential wildlife conflicts. The Committee agreed to ask the Township Committee to formally submit concerns to NJDEP and SADC.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm on motion by Mr. Mitchell, with 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Lorenz and unanimously approved.

Louis Joyce,  
Secretary

Next Meeting: January 11, 2024 (Reorganization and Regular meeting)

**Approved : DRAFT subject to approval at the next meeting.**