

Alloway Township Agriculture Advisory Committee

Minutes

January 11, 2024

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, Michael Hitchner, Brian Lorenz, John Blankenship, Warren Morgan, Brian Leady Committee Liaison.

Absent- None

Others present – Rob Ferber, NJCF

Committeeman Leady led the Oath of Office of the members for 2024.

Minutes from November 9, 2023 were approved on motion by Mr. Mitchell, 2nd by Mr. Lorenz with unanimous vote, Mike Hitchner abstained.

Old Business:

Report from Salem County: No updates available.

Report from SADC: Ms. Mazzella submitted a report via email. She reported that the Township PIG fund has \$308,664 in base grant and option for \$1 million in the competitive fund. She is continuing to work on the Van Meter property.

Report from NJCF: Mr. Ferber had no new NJCF activities. He suggested the Committee pick target farms and do direct outreach to the owners to get applications. He also concurred with sending blanket letters to all properties in the Preservation Plan.

Farmland Preservation Plan Update: Mr. Joyce reported that Mr. Scheule is getting copies printed for the members. Mr. Joyce also reported that he is working with the Township CFO to submit to the SADC for 50% of the cost for preparing the 2023 Plan update.

Letters to landowner of Target farms: it was discussed how to reach out to prospective applicants; the committee wants an explanation of the new appraisal process included; in addition to direct mailing a message will be included on the Township website; Mr. Morgan will inquire about getting mailing labels for direct mail.

Township trust fund: Reports from the treasurer indicated that the 2023 open space/farmland tax of \$14,325 was received; expenditures in 2023 were \$30,843.50 with \$14,148 in reimbursements and the available fund balance is \$142,897.37.

New Business: Mr. Mitchell suggested that we contact Katie Mazzella directly for language on the new appraisal methodology; Mr. Ferber indicated that SADC will be holding a training session soon; a question was also raised about the next generation farmer program and we will also request information on that.

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Public Comment: No public in attendance.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm on motion by Mr. Mitchell, with 2nd by Mr. Lorenz and unanimously approved.

Louis Joyce,
Secretary

Next Meeting: March 14, 2024

Approved : March 14, 2024