



Thursday, February 16, 2017

8:00 PM

AAC Agenda Minutes

Present: Frank Hasner, Cathy Blumig, Ted Chase, Al Puchalek, Fran

Absent: Excused Craig Feibel

1. Call to order in accordance with the Sunshine Law provision at 8:05pm
2. Approval of the January 19, 2016 meeting minutes
 - F. Varacalli to bring January Executive Session minutes for March meeting
 - A. Puchalek made a motion to accept the January 19th meeting minutes.
 - C. Blumig seconded the motion. F. Hasner abstained as he was not present at the meeting. All other members were in favor, Motion passed.
3. Financial Report – Financials are the same as last month. F. Varacalli to provide an updated report once the audit is completed in May.
4. Meeting opened to the public for comment
 - F. Hasner made a motion to open the meeting to the public. C Blumig seconded the motion. All members in favor. Motion passed. No one from the public spoke. F. Hasner made a motion to close the meeting to the public. C. Blumig seconded the motion. All members were in favor. Motion passed.
5. New Business
 - No new business discussed.
6. Old Business
 - a. Township Farmer's Market - update
 - The Township is moving forward to start the farmers market in June. Discussion regarding creating a vendor mix and participation levels. Additional discussion regarding health department regulations for vendors and farmers at the Farmers market.

- b. Township Agriculture Day, 2017 planning, Franklin Twp. Event
 - i. Full participation vendors should be invited to vend at the Franklin Day festival, as the last week of the farmers market.
 - ii. C. Blumig is reaching out to various groups to determine if there is interest from Rutgers Mason Gross students to documents farming practices in the Township.
 - c. Agriculture leases
 - i. Expired farmland lease auction information was posted in the newspapers, township website. The auction for leased farmland in the township is scheduled for Friday, March 3. Any interest bidders must pick up the bid package and register to participate in the auction on March 3.
 - ii. Chairman Puskas requested that copies of the previous leases and the new revised lease from 2016 be mailed to Committee members to do another review of the two leases for future farmland to be auctioned.
 - d. Farm Outreach – update
 - i. No new land owners have reached out to F. Varacalli from the outreach letters sent in December.
 - e. DPW is planning to mow the Gunther fields that have not been farmed.
 - f. F. Varacalli received a package of information from the Hunterdon/ Somerset - USDA Farm Service Agency – detailing land that may have not been farmed. This is informational only. The Township does not have to do anything additionally.
7. C. Blumig made a motion to open the meeting to the public. Frank H. seconded the motion. All members in favor. Motion passed.
- Rich Wolven, Amwell Rd., has a preserved township farm and is interested in the farmers market in Franklin. He commented about the discussion the Committee had in regards to the farmers market and liked the approach the township is taking in regards to the creating the farmers market, he is interested in being a vendor, and stressed the need to use social media to promote the market.
- C. Blumig made a motion to close the meeting to the public. F. Hanser seconded the motion. All members in favor. Motion passed.

F. Hasner made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss possible property purchases and negotiations. C. Blumig seconded the motion. All members in favor. Motion passed.

F. Hasner made a motion to exit Executive Session. A. Puchalek seconded the motion. All members were in favor. Motion passed.

9. Adjournment

F. Hasner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. A. Puchalek seconded the motion. All members in favor. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.