



AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

October 3, 2019

8:00PM

PRESENT

Bob Puskas, Chair
Cathy Blumig, Vice-Chair
Al Puchalek
Craig Feibel
Rik Johnson
Councilman Ted Chase
Tara Kenyon, Land Preservation and Management Consultant
Jung Chung, Intern – Franklin Township Open Space Program

PUBLIC

Rich Wolven – resident, Farmers Market Committee member, Farmers Market vendor

CALL TO ORDER (in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act {N.J.S.A. 10:4-6})

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Puskas at 8:04PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Al Puchalek made a motion to open the meeting to the Public to provide time for comments and/or questions related to the agenda. This motion was seconded by Craig Feibel. All approved and the meeting was opened to the public.

Hearing no public comment, Craig Feibel made a motion to close the open portion of the meeting. This motion was seconded by Rik Johnson. All agreed and the meeting was closed to public comment.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2019 MEETING MINUTES

Upon review of the minutes, Councilman Chase noticed that he should be added to the list, as he was present at the September meeting.

Craig Feibel made a motion to approve the May 2019 meeting minutes, which was seconded by Al Puchalek. All agreed and the May meeting minutes were approved.

Al Puchalek made a motion to approve the September meeting minutes, which was seconded by Craig Feibel. All agreed and the September minutes were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

MONITORING PROGRAM

Tara Kenyon reported that she and Jung Chung will perform site inspection between October 15th and November 1st. Any potential violations to the Deeds of Easement will be brought before the AAC.

OUTREACH FOR POTENTIAL FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROPERTIES

Jung drafted a brochure that explains the process and benefits of the Franklin Township Farmland Preservation Program. The AAC provided initial feedback and Jung agreed to make the edits and bring back before the Committee. The main source of feedback was that the brochure needs to be more Franklin-focused, and that a takeaway map would be most beneficial.

The Committee asked to see the Targeted Farms List from the Franklin Township Municipal Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan to be able to prioritize projects for the upcoming years. Tara will bring this map to an early 2020 meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Bob Puskas provided an update about the status of the hunting program at Hutcheson Forest being crafted and operated by Rutgers University. As of right now, the hunting program is anticipated to begin in the next few weeks. Hunters have submitted permit applications, which will be approved by Rutgers and filed with Franklin Township.

2019 FARMERS MARKET

Tara Kenyon reported that a meeting of the Farmers Market Committee will be held prior to the end of the year. Discussion occurred regarding the continued use of the shuttle service and SNAP program, potential for changing the day of the week/times, and signage improvements. Tara will provide a summary of the Farmers Market Committee meeting at the January 2020 AAC meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Cathy Blumig made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss projects under negotiation. Al Puchalek seconded the motion. All agreed and the Committee entered Executive Session.

Rik Johnson made a motion to exit Executive Session, which was seconded by Cathy Blumig. All agreed and the meeting was re-opened.

ADJOURNMENT

Craig Feibel made a motion to close the meeting at 9:12PM, which was seconded by Al Puchalek. All agreed, and the meeting was adjourned.