



AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

September 1, 2022

8:00PM

Franklin Township Municipal Building
475 DeMott Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873
Community Development Conference Room (1st Floor)

Present:

Bob Puskas, Chair

Cathy Blumig, Vice-Chair

Craig Feibel

Al Puchalek

Michael Peacos

Tara Kenyon, AICP/PP – Land Preservation and Management Consultant

CALL TO ORDER IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6)

8:03pm

PUBLIC COMMENT

As there were no members of the public present, Public Comment period was not held.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – JULY 7, 2022

Craig Feibel made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2022 Agriculture Advisory Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Cathy Blumig. All agreed, except for Bob Puskas who abstained from the vote. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

90-Day Notification Letter to SADC for Annual Municipal PIG Program

Tara reported that the 90-Day Notification Letter is due to the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) on September 15, 2022. This Letter is required to be sent to the Somerset County Agriculture Development Board and the SADC with information regarding Targeted Farms, Preserved Farms, and Preserved Open Space. The full application is due to the SADC on December 15th annually.

Hunting Program (2022 – 2023)

The lottery for hunting permits was held a few weeks ago, and permits have since been mailed out. The hunting season officially opens on September 10, 2022 and ends on February 11, 2023.

The County Route 518 Property was discussed. A parking lot needs to be added so that hunters can park there and hunt the property, as originally planned. DPW and Engineering are currently working on

developing a Plan for the parking lot, which needs to be approved by Somerset County access will be proposed from the County Road. Tara will keep the Committee posted on the progress.

OLD BUSINESS

Meet and Greet Event – July 27, 2022

The AAC held a Meet and Greet Event for Targeted Farmers and the public on July 27th. Tara Kenyon presented information about the process and benefits of farmland preservation and provided applications to interested parties.

Local Health Assessment Technical Assistance Grant

The Local Health Assessment survey is still posted online, with responses being submitted daily. The Assessment of data is nearly completed, and Tara has been able to develop some preliminary findings which will be shared with the Steering Committee. which will provide subjective feedback about health conditions and equity across the Township.

The next phase of the project is to host Focus Groups to discuss the data along with people's perceptions of health conditions in Franklin Township. All of this subjective and objective data will be combined to complete the Local Health Assessment Report, anticipated for completion in early 2023.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no business for Executive Session, so one was not held.

ADJOURNMENT

Cathy Blumig made a adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Al Puchalek. All agreed, and the AAC adjourned its meeting at 8:46pm.

The next meeting of the AAC is scheduled for Thursday October 6, 2022 at 8PM.