

**Thursday, January 16, 2014**  
**8:00 PM**  
**AAC Minutes**

Call to order in accordance with the Sunshine Law provision.

Roll call

- Present: Frank Hasner Cathy Blumig, Manny Manioudakis, Bob Puskas
- Absent: Gary Randolph

Reorganization of Committee

- C. Blumig made a motion to open nominations for the role of Chair and Vice Chair M. Manioudakis seconded motion. All in favor. Motion passed.
- C. Blumig nominated B. Puskas as Chair. M. Manioudakis seconded motion. All in favor chair. Motion passed.
- C. Blumig nominated F. Hasner as Vice Chair. M. Manioudakis seconded motion. All in favor. Motion passed.
- M. Manioudakis made a motion to close nominations. C. Blumig seconded motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

2014 Meeting Calendar resolution

- F. Hasner made a motion to approve the 2014 Agriculture Advisory Committee meeting schedule. C. Blumig seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approval of the September 16, 2013 minutes. F. Hasner made a motion to approve the September 13, 2013 meeting minutes. M. Manioudakis seconded the motion. All members in favor. Motion passed.

Open Space Trust Fund Financial report - No updated report – No large expenditures from the OSTF reported.

F. Hasner made a motion to open the meeting to the public for comment. C. Blumig seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

**New Business**

Update on Farm Leases - F. Varacalli updated the Committee members on the status of the farm leases.

F. Varacalli shared that there is an upcoming Farmland Preservation Conference in May at Hershey Park, PA.

Update on twp. farm easement monitoring. Monitoring completed in December 2013. The easement binders are completed.

Seasonal local Agriculture product for sale signage update – Twp. Looking at ways to allow temporary seasonal signs for local farmers to advertise their products for sale on Twp. Open Space Property.

C. Blumig reported that there is pending Bee keeping legislation

The NJ Keep it Green Campaign is working on a stable source of funding from the State for open space, historic and farmland preservation.

The NJ Land Conservation Rally will be held on Saturday, March 22, 2014 at Rutgers Busch Campus NJ.

Franklin Twp. Environmental Commission is hosting a Bee information presentation by Tim Schuler, State of NJ Apiarist, on March 17, 2013 in Council Chambers.

C. Blumig introduced the idea of a Honey Festival for Franklin Twp, Somerset County or the State of NJ.

B. Puskas shared that the State Agriculture Development Committee and Dept. of Ag Convention will be held Feb. 6-7 in Atlantic City.

**Old Business**

Hutcheson Memorial Forest fence update – discussion among the Committee about how to work with Rutgers on a deer management plan.

C. Blumig made a motion to enter into Executive Session. M. Manioudakis seconded the motion. All members in favor. Motion passed.

F. Hasner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. M. Manioudakis seconded the motion . All members if favor. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:25pm.