

AAC Meeting Minutes

January 22, 2015

Present:

Councilman Chase
Craig Feibel
Gary Randolph
Bob Puskas
Cathy Blumig
Frank Hasner
Fran Varacalli

F. Varacalli called the meeting to order at 8:05pm

G. Randolph made a motion to Nominate Bob Puskas as Committee Chair.

F. Hanser seconded the motion. No other Motions were made. All Members in favor. Motion passed. B. Puskas is Committee Chair.

B. Puskas asked for nominations for Committee Vice-Chair.

B. Puskas nominated C. Blumig as Committee Vice-Chair. No other nominations were made.

G. Randolph seconded the motion. All members are in favor

F. Hanser made a motion to approve the 2015 AAC meeting dates and times. G. Randolph seconded the motion. All members in favor. Motion passed.

F. Hasner made a motion to accept the October 2014 AAC minutes with changes. G. Randolph seconded the motion. C. Blumig abstained as she was not present. All members were in favor. Motion passed.

A motion to open the meeting to the public was made by F. Hasner, Seconded by G. Randolph. All members in favor. Motion passed.

Mr. David Chrin, lives on Old Georgetown Rd. may be interested in selling the development rights to a piece of farmland he owns that is adjacent to other twp. preserved farmland.

The Committee discussed the preservation process with Mr. Chrin. He would reach out to F. Varacalli if we would like to move forward.

G. Randolph made a motion to close public session. F. Hasner seconded the motion. All members in favor. Motion passed.

New business

2015 Committee Goals

a. Preserve more farmland

Create a plan to recognize Farmland in Franklin Twp. through the National Agriculture Day in March every year. Goals is to raise awareness of agriculture to town and it is recreational purpose, get local community to visit and frequent farms. Work on Twp. Web page to connect the community with farming. Possible organize a Farm tour in franklin one weekend with interested farmers in town.

Write a twp article farmland on farmland. Possibly spotlight a farm in Action –best during planting season.

b. Deer article review

Open Space Committee goal for 2015 is for the Township to do an infrared study for deer population.

Committee would like to inquire if the Twp. can generate a map or list of deer car crashes
Look into a Community based deer mgmt plan. Coordinate with state & county
The Twp, hunting program allows for hunting deer only. There have been reports of increasing
fox population n town. Residents and hunters have expressed interest in hunting fox.
Committee will research options for including fox hunting in the twp. hunting program.
Start an education campaign about wildlife and hunting program.
The Senate Environmental Committee passed a bill to allow hunting on Sundays State wide. It
was not been passed by the Full Senate or Assembly. We will follow the bill.

Old business

a. Hutcheson memorial forest update

Fran read most recent correspondence email – no update

b. Farm lease renewals

Recommendation for renewals

F. Varacalli provided an update on open space leases for farmland.

F. Varacalli sought recommendation for renewals on the farms leased by Manny Manioudakis.

1. Manioudakis –Memorial Forest renewable 1 more year total 5th year in 5 year lease

2. Manioudakis - Scott Farm/Marden is also renewable for 1 more year extension(5th year out of
5 year lease)

3. Manioudakis—Dunn Auction Lot 3 Suydam Road - renewable for 1st year extension(4th year
out of 5 year lease)

At this time Chairman Puskas recused himself from the conversation and the meeting room. C
Blumig, Vice Chair, took over the meeting during his absence. Chariman Puskas recused
himself as he may be interested in bidding on the property is the lease is put out to bid.

F. Hasner made a motion that pending review and approval from Twp attorney of current lease.
If Township determines it does not have to renew lease based on non compliance with lease
requirements with respect to appropriate farm maintenance and maintaining active agriculture
production. Does the Township need to have a third party review the condition of the farmland
to determine if the Lessee has met all the requirements of the lease?

Inquire also of the Twp. Attorney if a lease does not choose to re bid or is the Twp, does not re
new the lease can the previous lease re bid when the bid is opened?

C. Blumig seconded the motion.

All Members were in favor. Motion passed.

C. Blumig made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss pending land deals. G.

Randolph seconded the motion. All members in favor. Motion passed. All in favor

c. Snyder farm update. Somerset county sent violation letter to Snyder farm for storing
landscape materials in spring place.

When is farm use a farm use?

F. Hanser made a motion to adjourn. C. Blumig seconded the motion. All members were in
favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:35pm.