

Holland Township Agriculture Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, July 7, 2016
Holland Twp. Municipal Building, 6:30 PM

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:40 PM.

Present: L. Wilson, D. Bush, K. Young, R. Lozowski, J. Bonham, S. Dufek, L. LaFevre

Excused: E. Kozak, H. Sorge, C. Frenchu

Adequate notice of this meeting was given pursuant to the open public meeting act, by the Twp. Clerk on November 12, 2015.

May minutes were approved as submitted.

Farmland Preservation Applications:

Brown: One minor (and final) change to the metes and bounds was submitted to the County and State. However, Charlie Brown passed away on June 19th. It is not known how long this will delay the closing. We hope to get a better handle on this at the July monthly County Ag meeting.

Braun (B15 Lots 2 and 22.01): The Brauns have rejected the SADC offer of \$4700 per acre for the development rights. Attempts to contact Karen Braun have been unsuccessful.

Kerr (B15 L1): Norman Goldberg submitted his appraisal, which was \$4,650 per acre for the development rights. However, the SADC review appraiser has determined that, due to the time lapse (appraisal of \$4500 per acre, dated June 15, 2015), Tom Rodriguez must do a new appraisal. Tom has agreed to 'update' the appraisal for a substantially reduced rate.

Other Land Preservation:

Silva Farm: B10 L43 (97.25ac) and B14 L20 (32.99ac): May re-apply for preservation. But no update.

Gombosi (B25 L30, 48.5 ac): John Alexis has contacted the SADC but no update.

Suida: The new owner, Craig Rothenberg, has contacted the SADC about land preservation. There is a meeting with him along with state, county and HLT staff on June 13th. Larry will attend for Holland.

Hoffman Farms: As previously reported, the Hoffman farms were auctioned on June 9th. All 3 farm parcels were sold to one bidder for \$1,675,000. Dan reported that the Board of Chosen Freeholders accepted this bid amount at its meeting on 6/21/16; for the sale to be final, the Twp. Committee must also accept the bid, which could be at its 7/19/16 meeting. In 2002, 414 acres were purchased for \$2.8 million (Hunterdon County with a 76% interest and Holland Twp. with a 24% interest). Prior to the sale, the 3 farm lots were preserved through the SADC for \$1,473,368 total.

Dan recommended that we explore ways to preserve the Slate farm on Spring Garden Rd. even though there were at least two previously failed attempts. Larry will do some background research along with possible alternatives after which we may schedule a meeting with the Slates.

Other Business:

Larry distributed a letter and flyer from the Warren County Soil Conservation District regarding a grant from the NJ Dept. of Ag to assist farmers in developing self-certified animal waste management plans. Most of our committee members are familiar with manure issues and guidelines.

Pipeline Update:

Laura mentioned that the Delaware basin ban on fracking is about to expire and that the Alexandria Twp. Committee recently passed an anti-fracking resolution. Dan stated that Holland adopted a similar resolution in 2012.

Public Comment: N/A

Next Meeting(s): Sep 1st, Oct 6th, NO MEETING in Aug.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.