

Holland Township Agriculture Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, Mar 2, 2017
Holland Twp. Municipal Building, 6:30 PM

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:40 PM.

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

Excused: E Kozak, S. Dufek, L. Wilson, C. Frenchu, H. Sorge

Adequate notice of this meeting was given pursuant to the open public meeting act by the Twp. Clerk on December 8, 2016.

January minutes approved as submitted.

Farmland Preservation Applications:

Brown: Grant agreement completed. Freeholders must approve.

Kerr (B15 L1): Dan reported that Marc Phillips came to the planning board with plans for the site.

Other Land Preservation:

Silva Farm: B10 L43 (97.25ac) and B14 L20 (32.99ac): Larry met with Bill Rawlyk and Jackie Middleton at HLT on Jan 10. Bill mentioned a few ideas for funding to purchase, e.g. Dirt Capital, and agreed to check for others and get back to us.

Gombosi (B25 L30, 48.5 ac): Bret Berlinger may be interested in purchasing and preserving.

Rothenberg Farm (B17 L20, 122 ac): No update.

Slate (B24 L6, 65.88 ac): Very positive meeting with the Slates on Feb 21. They want to pursue farmland preservation, which will probably be a MPIG application. However, the pipeline crosses the northern edge of their farm, which will be a consideration during appraisals. There is a second meeting scheduled for Mar 10.

Gravel Hill, B22 L52, 23 ac/Tilstra: Larry reported that Sid Tilstra, who recently purchased this lot, called him and is interested in selling it to Green Acres (GA). Larry discussed it with Renee Jones (the GA person now responsible for this region). She will be in touch with Sid.

Township owned lots (B22 Lots 65 & 90; B24 Lots 8 & 9): While talking to Renee, she indicated that GA was ready to make an offer to the Twp for these 4 lots. Larry gave her Cathy Miller's contact info. Dan said she could call him directly.

Hoffman: Dan reported that Hoffman should close in March.

Clark: Dan inquired about Clark and agrees that we should reach out to them for a status and update.

PASA Conference, Feb 1-4, State College, PA:

Ron and Larry attended this conference; both consider it very informative and worthwhile. Ron attended several workshops related to pasture. Larry attended one on 'Farmers and Local Government'. Through various case studies, it was emphasized the importance of keeping zoning and other ordinances in sync with the right-to-farm ordinance, avoiding ambiguities and worse yet contradictions. Thus better supporting farm operations.

Other Business:

2017 Budget: Dan said the budgets will be presented at the 2nd Twp Committee meeting in March.

Ironbound/Newark Farms/Jersey Cider Works: Larry gave a brief update on this farm near the intersection of 614 and 579 (old King's Road Vineyard).

Pipeline Update: Larry reported that NJCF was conducting owl surveys in this area.

Public Comment: N/A

Next Meeting(s): Apr 6th, May 4th.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM.