

Holland Township Agriculture Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, April 5, 2018
Holland Twp. Municipal Building, 6:30 PM

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM.

Present: L. Wilson, R. Lozowski, J. Bonham, L. LaFevre

Excused: E. Kozak, S. Dufek, K. Young, H. Sorge, S. Wilhelm, C. Frenchu

Adequate notice of this meeting was given pursuant to the open public meeting act by the Twp. Clerk on December 21, 2017.

The February minutes were approved as submitted.

Farmland Preservation Applications:

Slate (B24 L6, 65.88 ac): Federal funds were approved. However, due to the size of the exception area around the pipeline route, the SADC is recommending the application be withdrawn and resubmitted when the final alignment of the pipeline is determined. (Please see correspondence).

Cernecaro (B17 L19, 104.08ac): Received green light approval on Mar 16. The county will order appraisals.

Silva (B10 L43, 97.25ac and B14 L20, 32.99ac): Sewer issues are resolved and green light approval received on Feb 14. Appraisals are out for bid.

Other Land Preservation:

Farmland Preservation Plan: Based on county and state feedback, minor changes were made to the plan on Feb 14. Final draft sent to the Highlands for review and comment. Formal hearing to review the document is scheduled for the April 9 meeting of the Planning Board.

Other Business:

ADAs: The CADB is updating the countywide Agriculture Development Areas. Larry reviewed Holland Township changes with Melanie Mason. Changes were briefly reviewed tonight.

Ron and Larry attended the annual PASA conference in State College Feb 8 – 10, 2018. Ron mentioned that there were several good workshops on maintaining and improving soil quality. Larry said there was a very informative workshop on access to farmland and capital for young farmers.

Larry attended the annual NJ land conservation rally on Mar 2nd. There was an excellent workshop that provided the latest updates on farmland preservation in NJ.

Water Use and Conservation Management Plan (WUCMP):

This will become a Holland Twp. Master Plan element. The committee reviewed the map and spreadsheet provided by Planning Board secretary. Larry agreed to forward this material to the committee along with any additional information as it becomes available.

We also discussed Marc Phillips' water use application as described in a letter from the NJ DEP.

Pipeline Update: The State of NJ, Homeowners Against Land Taking (HALT), NJ Conservation Foundation (NJCF) and Hunterdon Land Trust (HLT) filed legal papers asking the court to reject PennEast's demand to seize preserved land. Laura mentioned that dozens of NJ landowners took their fight against the pipeline to federal court in Trenton this morning.

Public Comment: N/A

Next Meeting(s): May 3rd, Jun 7th.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.