

Holland Township Agriculture Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, May 2, 2019
Holland Twp. Municipal Building, 6:30 PM

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:35 PM.

Present: L. Wilson, S. Dufek, D. Bush, R. Lozowski, E. Kozak, L. LaFevre

Excused: K. Young, J. Bonham, H. Sorge, C. Frenchu

SADC Staff: Stefanie Miller, Cindy Roberts

County Ag Staff: Bob Hornby

Guest: Ted Harwick

Adequate notice of this meeting was given pursuant to the open public meeting act by the Twp. Clerk on December 13, 2018.

The March minutes were approved as submitted.

Farmland Preservation Applications:

Slate (B24 L6, 65.88 ac): Essentially on hold per the PennEast pipeline.

Rolph (Cernecaro) (B17 L19, 91 net ac): CMV=\$4100/ac. Survey field work completed on 4/16.

Silva (B10 L43, 97.25ac and B14 L20, 32.99ac): CMV=\$4600/ac. SADC working with ATT legal to amend the cell tower lease.

Congratulations to Stefanie and Cindy on the preservation of the Perrine farm immediately adjacent to Holland Twp. and Little York, and essentially an extension of our Bunn Valley target area.

SADC Staff Discussion:

Stefanie and Cindy brought a spreadsheet of our targeted farms and a large map of the township showing preserved land, targeted farms and other Ag related overlays. Their goal was to update us on some SADC initiatives and get our input especially related to outreach, our priority farms and the history of some of these farms.

SADC is sending landowners newsletters and postcards highlighting farmland preservation, hopefully to open a dialog regarding the opportunities of farmland preservation and the future of their farm. Laura wondered if there was any PR done after a farm was preserved. At the county level, the freeholders usually do that. Dan cautioned that there were two sides to this and not everyone supports spending public funds on land preservation. He also mentioned that Holland is opted into the Highlands 100%. This has a downward impact on our land values.

A good discussion focused on farm owners who had applied for and then turned down preservation based on the certified market value, and how best to reach out to these folks again. Some have had success working with a realtor that understands land values and preservation. We will revisit at least some of these.

Ted would like to preserve his farm but is suspect of the value that he would receive. Dan fully supports preserving this property and considers it a high priority. The farm is on the Musky and is highly valued by others as well. We will get back to Ted and explore what the various options are and the best way to proceed.

Apparently, there is a discrepancy between which properties the County has included in the ADA and what we have in our farmland preservation plan. This should be addressed.

Other Land Preservation: No update.

Other Business/Spotted Lanternfly:

Larry mentioned that a NJ Dept. of Ag representative stopped at his house to obtain permission to kill or treat all Tree of Heaven trees on the property. No one else reported speaking to a NJDA person about this.

Pipeline Update: No update.

Public Comment: See comments above related to Ted Harwick's property.

Next Meeting(s): Jun 6th, Aug 1st.

Meeting adjourned at 8 PM.