

Call To Order

In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, this is the reorganization meeting of the Agricultural Advisory Committee, pursuant to a meeting notice published in the December 24, 2009, issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat. Notice of this meeting was filed in the Clerk's Office, sent to the Hunterdon County Democrat, the Trenton Times, and the Star Ledger. The agenda was posted on the bulletin board on January 15, 2010.

Reorganization for 2010

Appointment of Chairman: Municipal Clerk Terri Stahl called for the appointment of Chairman. Linda Lenox nominated Bill duFosse, who declined the position. Bill duFosse nominated Linda Lenox as Chairman, seconded by Frances Gavigan, and it was carried unanimously to appoint Linda Lenox as Chairman.

Appointment of Vice Chairman: Bill duFosse was nominated as Vice Chair for 2010 by John Perekhyns, seconded by Frances Gavigan, and it was carried unanimously to appoint Bill duFosse as Vice Chairman.

Appointment of Recording Secretary: Christine Rosikiewicz was appointed as the Recording Secretary on a motion by Bill duFosse, seconded by John Perekhyns, and carried unanimously.

Annual Meeting Schedule: Members agreed that they would continue to hold their meetings on the third Monday of the month at 8:00 p.m. Some discussion took place on past practice to eliminate some summer meetings, during the hay season, including the months of June and July. Members agreed that they should consider holding their meetings every other month and holding a farm forum in October.

Motion was made by Frances Gavigan, seconded by Bill duFosse, and it was carried unanimously to hold the Agricultural Advisory Committee meetings on the third Monday of the month at 8:00 p.m. during the months of March, May, August, October, and December, and as needed.

Mission Statement: "The East Amwell Agricultural Advisory Committee serves to review and comment on both local and state legislation that impacts agriculture. In addition, the committee seeks to advance those policies, capabilities and resources instrumental to the creation and sustainability of agriculture in East Amwell."

Motion by Frances Gavigan, seconded by Bill duFosse, and carried unanimously to approve the 2010 mission statement.

Goals for 2010: Committee members briefly discussed possible goals for the year. Frances Gavigan suggested having a program at the March meeting regarding the recent tax legislation impacting the equine industry. She mentioned that Accountant John Seramba has significant

information, and she also suggested reaching out to the state or Farm Bureau for further information. Frances agreed to get the speakers for the March program.

The second goal for 2010 was to hold a farm forum in October.

CADB Liaison: John Pehinys stated that he would be willing to be the CADB liaison for the municipality since he sits on the CADB.

Announcements

Frances Gavigan provided Farm Bureau policies she copied, asking if other members wanted her to scan them and provide copies by email. Linda Lenox agreed that they would be helpful.

Approval of Minutes

September 21, 2009, Minutes could not be approved since there was not a quorum of members in attendance present this evening. They will be held until the next meeting.

Old Business/Updates, If Applicable

1) Farmland/Open Space Preservation Committee: Bill duFosse provided a brief summary of preservation efforts, including the following: the attorney for Zuegner's on Dutch Lane is concerned about a County option offer of \$9,500 per acre for property with a higher certified value - attorneys are discussing options. Hay property on Rainbow Hill Road has closed. Higgins property on North Hill Road is still on hold; the property was formally operated as an airstrip, and John Pehinys also provided anecdotal information on other potential airstrip locations in the Township years ago.

2) Farm Forum Review: There was some critique of the 2009 forum with positive feedback about the program, including a lot of attendance from neighboring municipalities.

New Business

John Pehinys asked how farmers would benefit from recent legislation to legalize marijuana. Some discussion took place on the legislation, and further information may be sought from the Department of Health and Department of Agriculture, and the Farm Bureau. Terri Stahl agreed to go on line to see if there was any information available now.

Bill duFosse asked about recent legislation, which would allow for wind power on preserved farm without zoning restrictions. He is ready for installation of a turbine on his property, and he provided specifics on costs and savings associated with this form of renewed energy, including the fact that solar energy devices may only last 15 years while turbine energy has a 40 year life span. Further information on whether the Governor signed the legislation will be retrieved off the inter-net.

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Reorganization Meeting

JANUARY 18, 2010

John Perekhyns gave an update on CADB applications, including a recent Right to Farm hearing for Old York Cellars (formerly the Amwell Valley Vineyards). He explained that the owners "want to do the right thing" and get approvals prior to building. He hoped that the Agriculture Advisory Committee would support the activities as farm related activities. Linda Lenox commented on the possibility of having Agricultural Advisory Committee members attend the grand opening in support of the operation.

Linda Lenox welcomed Frances Gavigan as a new member of the Committee.

Correspondence

Frances Gavigan asked that the recording secretary scan Farm Bureau newsletters on a regular basis between meetings so that the Committee can consider addressing them and possibly having additional meetings to discuss them, if necessary.

Open to the Public

Motion to open to the public was made by Frances Gavigan, seconded by John Perekhyns and carried unanimously. There being no members of the public present, motion by Frances Gavigan, seconded by John Perekhyns, and it was carried unanimously to close to the public.

Adjournment

There being no further business, motion by John Perekhyns, seconded by Bill duFosse, and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Teresa R. Stahl, Municipal Clerk