

Ag Advisory Committee Minutes for February 2, 2012

Meeting commenced at 7:05 pm with Chester Urbanski, Bill Kiriluk, Betty Jane Hunt, Dave Miller and Township liaison Tom Molnar present. Greg Sappington was absent.

Minutes from the January 5, 2012 meeting were approved with no changes.

Chester informed the Committee that all minutes from 2010 and 2011 have been approved by the Township Committee and have been posted on the Township website.

First order of business was to discuss the results of the e-mails sent to township farmers concerning a list to be compiled for placement on pamphlets to be displayed at local business and listed on the Township website to inform residents of any products they have available for purchase. Only two farmers responded to the 14 e-mails sent. The Committee decided to contact the non-responsive farmers by phone to get an answer on their participation.

We then discussed Breanna Fulper's letter in the Hunterdon Democrat about the continuance of dairy farming in the Township. She has agreed to attend our March meeting and give us her input on farming in the community and ways to assist the Committee in its continued effort to renew and continue agriculture in West Amwell.

The Committee then discussed the fact that besides the Fulper Family dairy and crop farm there is no other farm in the Township which earns a living solely from farming. All other farms in the Townships subsidize themselves with outside incomes.

We then discussed the new Township website which according to Tom Molnar should be up and running within the next 60 days. The Committee will be able to design its own web page.

We then reviewed the Heritage Development plat on Route 179 as Dave and Bill had expressed concern at our January meeting about run off from the detention basin into Alexauken Creek. We found that there is no detention basin and that the run off flows into a subsidiary of the Alexauken with no visible structures to detain the water flow. As this subdivision was approved quite a long time ago we were unable to determine if anything can be done concerning this.

Betty Jane then asked the question if a secondary building, a.k.a. pole building, was allowed on farm assessed property without a house being previously built. Tom said he would find out about this and let us know at the March meeting.

The Township fair is scheduled for May 19th. We discussed whether or not the Committee wishes to have a booth at this event. Betty Jane who is co-chair of the fair committee said they need people to furnish animals to display at the fair. We also discussed the possibility of getting the State Police to bring a helicopter to. Dave will contact a friend in the State Police to find out if this is possible. The Township country fair dinner is scheduled for September 14th with the ticket price being raised to \$20.00.

We briefly discussed the garden contest we hope to hold this year. Different categories were discussed and the possibility of local businesses furnishing prizes or trophies. The contest will be advertised on the new website and we hope for a good turnout.

The last order of business discussed was Betty Jane's booklet of her newspaper articles which the Committee wishes to make available for sale. BJ has a price from the County print shop and hopes to be able to go to print soon. The booklets will be available to purchase on the new website and hopefully at the Fair.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm with the next meeting scheduled for March 1, 2012 at 7:30 pm.

Minutes prepared by Dave Miller