

## Ag Advisory Committee Minutes for November 15, 2010

Meeting commenced at 7:30 pm with Chester Urbanski, Bill Kiriluk, Betty Jane Hunt, Greg Sappington and Dave Miller present.

The minutes of the previous meeting of Oct. 21, 2010 were reviewed and approved.

The committee discussed Betty Jane's recent articles in the Beacon. We congratulated her and offered our thanks for all her efforts with this and all her previous articles. The committee felt that these articles are good for the Township and good for farmers and agriculture in West Amwell.

The Committee discussed how to bring in people who were interested in growing different varieties of vegetables. We need to find out what the people want.

Greg had expressed a great dislike for the term, "solar farms". The committee agreed. These facilities are not farms. The committee decided that a letter to the Beacon was in order. See letter below\*.

We discussed the reexamination of the Master Plan. Betty Jane expressed concern as to how agriculture was represented.

More discussion: When the solar facilities are placed on farmland and the land is no longer farmed, for 25 to 30 years, the usual term of the lease, will farmland disappear in this Township?

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 pm

Minutes prepared by Dave Miller.

Subsequent letter from the AAC as it appeared in the Trenton Times, Beacon and Democrat:

**\*Solar facilities are a different kind of plant**

Please be advised that the West Amwell Township Agricultural Advisory Committee is opposed to The Times' reference to solar installations/solar facilities as "solar farms" ("Solar farm' may be ready to reap energy by new year -- PSE&G hails progress on its project in Hamilton, largest in New Jersey," Nov. 23).

They are not farms. Far from it. If anything, they remove farmland from active agricultural production.

The state of New Jersey and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection never refer to these installations as farms. They refer to them as solar facilities. We respectfully request that the newspaper's articles refer to them as such.

Chester Urbanski,  
Lambertville

The writer is chairman of the West Amwell Agricultural Advisory Committee.

