

## Ag Advisory Committee Minutes for September 9, 2010

Meeting called to order at 7:35 pm with Chester Urbanski, Bill Kiriluk, Greg Sappington, Betty Jane Hunt and Dave Miller present.

The minutes from the previous meeting of May 10, 2010 were reviewed and approved with no changes.

Betty Jane Hunt took the Oath of Office as the AAC's newest member.

The first order of business was to address the Application Review Checklist for the Farmland Preservation Plan. The following changes were recommended by the AAC.

Section II comments table data will be addressed by Linda Weber.

Page 2 Section III all questions are to be handled by Linda.

Page 3 Section IV *Are there any local or regional trail systems.* The AAC believes to the best of our knowledge that no trail systems exist in the Township.

Page 4 Section V *Add ACC/Twp/County perspectives. Is division discouraged?* The AAC opinion is there is no discouragement of division of premises. Also in the same section *Factors Limiting Farmland Preservation Implementation.* The AAC has no idea of the amount of funding available. Shawn Feiffer will have a much better handle on funding. Land owner interest we believe depends on the economy our reasoning being if the landowner is in need of other income then they will be more interested in this program. We also recommend removing items 2, 5, and 6.

Page 5 Section VI *Are Ag interests represented on are business associations?* The AAC believes that the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce and the County Ag Board are two business associations which represent Agriculture.

Page 6 Section VII *Are programs meeting farmer/landowner needs and environmental objectives?* The AAC believes the DEP paragraph should be removed because if anything they are a hindrance rather than a help to farmers. Betty Jane Hunt will contact Robert Fulper about the other programs because the AAC believes due to the size of the Fulper Farm he has had more dealings with said agencies.

The second order of business was if the AAC should show its support of the horse industry by preparing a letter of support. Betty Jane volunteered to prepare this letter to review at the next meeting.

The third piece of business discussed was an idea Betty Jane had to prepare a series of newspaper articles to be run in the local paper interviewing a different farmer or agriculture related business to raise resident awareness in and around the Township as to

the different service available to residents from these farmers. Betty Jane will prepare a sample article to review at our next meeting.

The final issue discussed by the committee was to find out if a copy of the Fulper farm DEP issued permit to apply juice and yogurt by product waste from Johanna Foods is available for the committee to review. There have been a number of complaints about odor from stockpiles and application of this byproduct by Township residents and the AAC feels before any action is taken the facts of the permit should be reviewed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm with the next meeting scheduled for October 4<sup>th</sup>.

Minutes prepared by Dave Miller.

Addendum: 9-17-10 Special Planner Linda Weber, Open Space and Planning Board chairman Sean Pfeiffer and Chester met with Tim Brill of the SADC last evening. The purpose of our meeting was to try to hammer out and finalize the most recent Application Review Checklist received from the SADC regarding our last FPP draft. The meeting went very well. Thanks to our efforts at our last AAC meeting we were able to satisfy all of the SADC comments. Linda is planning to send a final draft to the SADC within the next few days and according to Tim, the SADC should accept it as complete.