

Ag Advisory Committee Minutes for February 9, 2010

Meeting commenced at 7:30 pm with Chester Urbanski, Bill Kiriluk, and Dave Miller present. Greg Sappington and Gary Bleacher were unable to attend. Sean Pfeiffer, Planning Board and Open Space Chairman and George Fisher, Township Committee liaison were present.

This was an unscheduled meeting to discuss and review amendments to the Township Farmland Preservation Plan.

Committee members who were present signed the Oath of Allegiance document and repeated said oath as required by the State of New Jersey.

Minutes from the previous meeting of January 4th were reviewed and approved.

February 3rd e-mail from Chairman Urbanski to Rick Steffey requesting he attend meeting was read.

In response to comments or requests for additional information as per the Application Review Checklist received from the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC), regarding West Amwell Township's Farmland Preservation Plan (FPP), the Agricultural Advisory Committee (AAC) comments and recommendations are as follows:

- 1) The AAC recommended discussing an Ag buffer amendment to the Master Plan.
- 2) There is no exemption to the septic set aside (Reserve Septic) ordinance for cluster properties in the Township as referenced in the Planning Board letter of 8/18/09.
- 3) The clustering properties option in an Agricultural Development Area (ADA) should be reviewed to allow optimal non use of said area in relation to septic use.
- 4) ADA and Township project area maps are needed. The AAC needs to get the County ADA map from Rick Steffey.
- 5) Make sure our Township ADA map is consistent with the County ADA map. Assistance from Linda Weber is needed.
- 6) The township does have minimum eligibility criteria. It was noted that Linda should list the reasons we don't need to use our own list.
- 7) SADC ranking criteria (P-14E) were recommended to be used as Township ranking criteria.
- 8) Page 27, of the FPP, under exceptions the AAC recommends to cross out the sentence in question.
- 9) Need to get numbers from Rick Steffey regarding available funding from the county.
- 10) Again we need figures from Rick Steffey to answer this question.
- 11) As to the Townships ability to preserve farmland over the next decade, Land Supply and Landowner interest plus the question of State Funding are the major factors.
- 12) A explanation of economic limitations to the farmer is needed. It is recommended to ask Rick Steffey or the Department of Ag for help in answering these questions.

13) Anticipated Agricultural Trends seems to be a wish list of needed economic aid for farmers in the Township such as equipment dealers, grain processing and livestock auction in the Township.

14) Again this is a wish list of Ag commodities.

15) The AAC is very interested in working with both County and regional interest in reaching out to farmers. The AAC has reached out to farmers and all landowners in the community in the past, although with limited response, though the responses received were generally good.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for March 1st.

Minutes prepared by David Miller.

In addition, for the record, the following letter was sent to Princeton Hydro on Jan 11, 2010:

Princeton Hydro, LLC
1108 Old York Road
Suite 1, PO Box 720
Ringoos, NJ 08551
January 11, 2010

Dear Steve and Paul:

I wanted to wait until the Agricultural Advisory Committee had a chance to meet to discuss our meeting of 12/16/09. We met on Monday, Jan 4, 2010.

I want to thank you both so very much for taking the time to speak with myself and Bill Kiriluk regarding the 319h grant project (Alexauken Creek).

Our committee would like to make the following recommendation regarding possible restorative/revitalization projects for the Creek: we feel that the best possible action plan would be to target the development at Orleans. It is our hypothesis that stormwater pours from the development into the Alexauken Creek, causing flooding, stream bank erosion, sediment and silt increase, loss of water quality and the degradation of fish species.

The committee feels that efforts should be concentrated at procuring grants which would target problems associated with this development. These might include a redesigned retention basin to control the flow of the water into the Creek as well as state-of-the-art detention efforts to control the stormwater flow.

Please keep us informed as to your intentions. If the committee can help you in any way, please contact us.