

Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

September 1, 2016

Attendance:

Present: Chester Urbanski, Betty Jane Hunt, Heidi Tomenchok, Bill Kiriluk, and Township Committee Liaison, John Dale.

Absent – Greg Sappington

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM

Business:

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of July 7, 2016 were approved as is; Betty Jane motioned, Bill seconded.

Holcombe property

Property is moving forward with preservation; nothing new to report.

Easter Egg Hunt update

Heidi Tomenchok reported that the Parks and Recreation Committee did not meet over the summer so there is no update at this time.

Farmland Preservation – Runkle properties

Runkle properties – Block 13, lot 1 (29.4 acres), lot 1.01 (73.9 acres) and lot 1.02 (21.5 acres) as well as Block 5, lot 14 (16.6 acres) are under consideration for farmland preservation. Ray Runkle has expressed an interest to the Open Space Committee in preserving this land.

The Block 13 properties are in the Rural Residential 5 zoning and therefore, it is believed that up to 25 houses may be able to be built on the total acreage. The Block 5 property is across Route 179 and is Rural Residential 4 and a flag lot.

The recommendation of the Ag Advisory Committee to the Open Space Committee is that all lands should be preserved via the Open Space Farmland Preservation Program for the following reasons:

- The Block 13 lots are adjoining land that is already preserved.
- The Block 13 lots have historically been farmed and should remain as farmland.
- The Block 13 lots are believed to be good candidates for development as there are many areas that are flat.
- The Block 13 lots are part of the Mt Airy Historical District and the character of this district should be maintained as is.
- The Block 5 lot is adjoining land that is already developed.
- The Block 5 lot is believed to be a good candidate for development as it is flat.

Chester Urbanski will provide these recommendations to the Open Space Committee.

Acting Secretaries

October– Greg

November – Betty Jane

December - Chester

New business

The Hunterdon County 4-H Fair was deemed a success; Betty Jane had 5 dairy cows in the fair and all received blue ribbons as part of the Mt. Airy Dairy Club. Betty Jane will be taking members of the Dairy Club on two trips this fall for judging. Great job by our local young farmers.

Adjournment – There being no further business from the members for discussion, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:48 pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Oct 6, 2016.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Tomenchok, Acting Secretary