

Holland Township Agriculture Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, December 7, 2017
Holland Twp. Municipal Building, 6:30 PM

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 6:33 PM.

Present: S. Dufek, D. Bush, R. Lozowski, K. Young, L. LaFevre

Excused: E. Kozak, L. Wilson, J. Bonham, H. Sorge, C. Frenchu

Adequate notice of this meeting was given pursuant to the open public meeting act by the Twp. Clerk on December 8, 2016.

September minutes approved as submitted.

Farmland Preservation Applications:

Brown: After 12 years, the Brown farm closed on 9/15/17! On 10/9, Dave Harding (HLT) and Larry interviewed the family in preparation for a newsletter and/or a press release. Half of the survey costs (\$5,250) were reimbursed from the state. The county paid for appraisals.

Slate (B24 L6, 65.88 ac): The Slates agreed to pursue federal funding. State to do mapping and Jackie (HLT) will apply for Fed funds, but funding will be tight in this round.

Cernecaro (B17 L19, 104.08ac): Still trying to resolve size and location of exception areas and insure compliance with Highlands. Dan advised to check with Darlene Green for lot size requirements.

Silva (B10 L43, 97.25ac and B14 L20, 32.99ac): Jackie (HLT), Stefani (SADC) and Larry met with the Silvas on 9/26. All three signed an SADC direct easement farmland preservation application. The farm has a good quality score but is not falling in the scope of what is being selected first in the DE program. So the application has been moved to the county program. However, with the woodlot included, it is slightly less than 50% tillable. Mike has completely cleared the field in front of block 20 and plans to designate a few acres (not currently tilled) as pasture. The CADB meeting is Dec 14th.

Other Land Preservation:

Clark (B6 L60, 179ac): Christine has talked with William Clark but has not heard back regarding a meeting with the family.

Farmland Preservation Plan: Updates to the preserved farms list, the targeted farms list and the preserved land map were submitted to Darlene Green.

Preserved Land by Municipality: Brief discussion of the table provided by the county showing that Holland ranks 6th among county towns in total farmland acreage preserved.

2018 Budgets:

Ag committee budget to be submitted with the same total as last year. Farmland preservation budget to be submitted with the estimate of \$342,200. Larry is to meet with our CFO to discuss a resolution to appropriate adequate funds.

2018 Meetings: Meeting date and time will remain the same as this year.

Other Business:

How to Keep Farmers Farming in NJ: On 11/30/17 at Duke Farm, Larry attended this workshop which focused on tools and strategies for addressing land access challenges.

National Land Conservation Conference: On Oct 25-27, Larry attended this rally in Denver, CO. One workshop focused on the USDA Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) through which we obtain Federal funds for farmland preservation.

Emerald Ash Borer: Larry attended a county workshop regarding this issue and mentioned that the county forester presented a detailed plan of action. Ron requested a copy.

Pipeline Update:

Larry reported that NJCF has sued FERC citing the 5th Amendment requirement that any eminent domain action be made for 'public use'.

Public Comment: N/A

Next Meeting(s): Reorg, Jan 4th.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM.