

**EAST AMWELL  
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Meeting Minutes  
May 16, 2011**

**Call to Order:**

The May regular meeting of the East Amwell Township Agricultural Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:36PM. Present were Frances Gavigan (Committee Chair), Bill duFosse, Gail Glashoff and Recording Secretary Christine Rosikiewicz. Kit Crisafulli (Vice Chair) and John Pehinys were absent.

In Compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act Christine Rosikiewicz stated that this was a regular meeting, pursuant to the meeting notice published in the Hunterdon County Democrat. Notice of this meeting was filed in the Township Clerk's office, sent to the Hunterdon County Democrat, the Trenton Times and the Star Ledger. The agenda was posted on the municipal building bulletin board on May 9, 2011.

**Announcements:**

F. Gavigan reported that there were no SADC updates on solar or wind power. The Township revised the Solar Ordinance to extend buffers and increase the height allowed. A copy of the ordinance can be provided.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The February meeting minutes were tabled until the July meeting due to lack of a quorum. **G. Glashoff made a motion to approve the March 21, 2011 meeting minutes; B. duFosse seconded the motion. All were in favor; the March 21, 2011 meeting minutes were approved.**

**Old Business:**

Farmland/Open Space Preservation Committee: F. Gavigan reported that FOSPC made a request at the last Township Committee meeting that the Planning Board include specific language regarding Rite to Farm in their zoning ordinance and Master Plan. This additional language could positively impact applications. Frances Gavigan referred to Upper Freehold Township where there is a specific ordinance regarding Rite to Farm. FOSPC is requesting East Amwell Township put in place something similar. The Planning Board has not taken any action on this. Agricultural Advisory Committee members suggested a letter be sent to new township residents advising them that they have moved to a "farming community".

Ordinances and zoning in regard to area farmers was discussed including the Hopewell ordinance concerning roosters. Also discussed was the proposed fee ordinance for zoning reviews and the Summer Playground program. Committee members suggested

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waived or reduced fees for farm related zoning. A reduced tax rate or no tax on unused farm building was also discussed. B. duFosse explained that the buildings are like “tools” for the farmer. It was noted that in other states the taxes on farmland are much lower although the farm goods sell for the same price.

SADC: F. Gavigan reported that there is an SADC Farmland Preservation Program 2011 Appraiser Conference in West Windsor on Wednesday June 8<sup>th</sup>. F. Gavigan provided the committee with information on the conference. Topics that will be covered include solar and wind power on New Jersey farms, restricted farmland sales and appraiser handbook amendments. F. Gavigan hopes to attend this conference.

CADB: No report as John Perekynis was absent.

**New Business:**

Farm Forum: F. Gavigan called township resident John Seramba (3B Rosemont Ringoes Rd.) on the phone at this time to inquire if he knows anyone who would be interested in speaking at the Farm Forum on solar energy. G. Glasshoff invited Mr. Seramba to attend the July Agricultural Advisory Committee meeting.

Township Website: F. Gavigan asked C. Rosikiewicz to provide information about the committee that could be published on the Township website including requesting e-mail addresses for a mailing list.

**Correspondence:**

F. Gavigan referred to the Amwell Valley Design Standards that the Planning Board is working on and opened a discussion on this item. It was noted that it could include solar and wind power.

**Open to the Public:**

There was no public present.

**Adjournment:**

**There being no further business, a motion was made by B. duFosse and seconded by G. Glasshoff, and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:57PM.**

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Christine Rosikiewicz, Recording Secretary