

**EAST AMWELL
AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2012**

Call to Order:

The October regular meeting of the East Amwell Township Agricultural Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:44p.m. at the East Amwell Township municipal building. Present were Bill duFosse, Frances Gavigan (Committee Chair), Gail Glashoff and Recording Secretary Christine Rosikiewicz. Kit Crisafulli 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 January 26, 2012 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 October 9, 2012.

Announcements:

There were no announcements.

Approval of Minutes:

G. Glashoff made a motion to approve the September 17, 2012 meeting minutes. B. duFosse seconded the motion. All were in favor; the September 17, 2012 meeting minutes were approved.

Open to the Public:

F. Gavigan opened the meeting to the public.

Being as no members of the public came forward B. duFosse made a motion to close the meeting to the public; G. Glashoff seconded it. All were in favor; the motion passed.

Old Business:

Farmland/Open Space Preservation Committee: B. duFosse reported that Polhemus property closed. G. Glashoff reported that the Plimpton Estate may be preserved. Twenty-one acres will go into preservation; five acres will be left unpreserved for the home. It was noted that there is a fifteen acre minimum lot size in the mountain zone. B. duFosse reported that he commented negatively on farmland preservation and the SADC at the Farm Bureau dinner and at the FOSPC meeting. He commented on the poor quality

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of preserved land in the Township; there is no money to maintain it yet more land is being purchased.

B. duFosse made a motion to ask Township Committee to consider any and all non-profit entities that have taken over open space or private land assume ownership and title and property that they have an obligation to properly maintain and manage so as to minimize the adverse impacts to the neighboring properties and farms and public liability for such nuisance weeds. G. Glashoff seconded the motion. All were in favor; the motion passed.

G. Glashoff made a motion to amend the previous motion to read “ask Township Committee and the Planning Board to consider....” B. duFosse seconded it. All were in favor; the motion passed.

F. Gavigan summarized information from the NJ Department of Agriculture Division webpage regarding nuisance ordinances including weeds.

B. duFosse advised the Committee that FOSPC is interested in hosting a joint forum in the spring with the AAC. F. Gavigan and G. Glashoff agreed this was a good idea. C. Rosikiewicz will contact FOSPC to see if they could meet together at one of their meetings.

F. Gavigan read information from the Farm Bureau website regarding neglected public space and encouraging enforcement of laws regarding invasive species. She referred to best management practices and model ordinances on the website.

G. Glashoff referred to foreclosed homes where banks are not maintaining the property resulting in high grass and rodents.

There was a suggestion the forum be filmed and broadcast on the cable public access channel.

CADB: F.Gavigan referred to the County website for information on recent minutes and agendas. The Hionis property was briefly discussed.

Website: There have been no updates made.

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Budget:

The Committee is within budget for the year. C. Rosikiewicz will put the 2013 budget on the agenda for November.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Correspondence:

There was no comment on any correspondence.

Open to the Public:

There was no public present.

Adjournment:

G. Glashoff made a motion to adjourn the meeting; B. duFosse seconded it. All were in favor; the meeting was adjourned at 8:56pm.

Christine Rosikiewicz, Recording Secretary