

**REORGAINZATION MEETING MINUTES
EAST AMWELL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
JANUARY 6, 2014; EAST AMWELL MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 1070 ROUTE 202, RINGOES, NJ**

CALL TO ORDER & OPEN PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

The meeting of the East Amwell Agricultural Advisory Committee was called to order at 7:46 PM by Committee Recording Secretary Scott Bauman. Mr. Bauman read the following: In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, it was noted that this is a Reorganization Meeting pursuant to the meeting notice published in the December 19, 2013 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat. Notice of this meeting was filed in the Township Clerk’s Office, sent to the Hunterdon County Democrat, and the agenda was posted on the municipal bulletin board.

2014 ATTENDANCE

Agricultural Advisory Committee Member	1/6/14	2/3/14	3/3/14	4/7/14	5/5/14	6/2/14	7/7/14	8/4/14	9/15/14	10/6/14	11/3/14	12/1/14
Kit Crisafulli												
William DuFosse	X											
Frances Gavigan	X											
Gail Glashoff	X											
John Perehinys												

Others present on 1/6/14: Recording Secretary Scott Bauman

REORGANIZATION MEETING FOR 2014

Ms. Glashoff made a motion, seconded by Mr. DuFosse, and unanimously approved to nominate Ms. Gavigan for Committee Chair for 2014.

Mr. DuFosse made a motion, seconded by Chairwoman Gavigan, and unanimously approved to nominate Ms. Glashoff for Committee Vice Chair for 2014.

Vice Chairwoman Glashoff made a motion, seconded by Mr. DuFosse, and unanimously approved to appoint Scott Bauman for Recording Secretary for 2014.

Mr. DuFosse made a motion, seconded by Vice Chairwoman Glashoff, and unanimously approved to adopt a 2014 meeting schedule as follows: Jan. 6, Feb. 3, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2, July 7, Aug. 4, Sept. 15, Oct. 6, Nov. 3, and Dec. 1. Meetings are held 7:30 PM in the Municipal Building, 1070 Route 202/31, Ringoes.

Vice Chairwoman Glashoff made a motion, seconded by Mr. DuFosse, and unanimously approved to name the Hunterdon Democrat as the official publication of legal notices for 2014.

PRESENTATION OF DECEMBER 2, 2013, MEETING MINUTES

Mr. DuFosse made a motion, seconded by Chairwoman Gavigan, and unanimously approved the December 2, 2013, meeting minutes as submitted. Vice Chairwoman Glashoff abstained from voting.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: No members of the public were present.

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OLD BUSINESS / UPDATES

2014 GreenFest. Chairwoman Gavigan informed the members that Greenfest is in April and the Ag Advisory Committee has been asked to participate. Chairwoman Gavigan recalled attending last year's event; those present discussed ways to participate in the event this year.

AAC Mission Statement. The Committee discussed ways to come up with a role for the AAC. This matter will be carried to the February meeting.

Recording Secretary Hours. Chairwoman Gavigan recognized that the Board Secretary Scott Bauman worked 3.5 hours for the AAC in the month of December.

Zoning Officer & Zoning Board Attorney Memos, re: Farm Animals in Sourland Mountain Zone. Chairwoman Gavigan said the Zoning Officer withdrew his Notice of Violation issued for private residence having a farm animal in the Sourland Mountain zone district. The Committee discussed there being no definition of a farm in the municipal zoning code, and opining that the Planning Board should look into defining what is a farm from a planning and zoning perspective. Assisting the Planning Board with this task ties back to the AAC Mission Statement. A farm defined by New Jersey and the USDA as an income producing agricultural commodity.

A discussion ensued over horse boarding facilities at which time Vice Chairwoman Glashoff volunteered to find some documents about farm animal handling and horse keeping. Chairwoman Gavigan provided Mr. Bauman with some farm animal brochures for the AAC file dealing with keeping horses on small properties.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Website Links. Mr. Bauman informed the Committee that the website links are not yet up on the township website:

- SADC Guidebook: *Leasing Farmland in New Jersey*
- SADC webinar: Rules for On-Farm Direct Marketing & Amended Right to Farm Procedures
- NJ Division of Taxation: Application for Farmland Assessment (Form FA-1)

REPORTS

Farmland / Open Space Preservation Committee Report. Mr. Crisafulli was not present. Mr. Bauman, who also serves as the FOSPC Administrator reported that he received an email from Mr. Crisafulli stating that he will be unable to continue as AAC liaison for FOSPC due to other commitments. Chairwoman Gavigan volunteered to serve as new AAC liaison to FOSPC. Mr. Bauman reported that the Township and Scibilia are working on an agreement concerning the mowing covenant. There is no update on the Perkovich or Hay parcels for farmland preservation.

Planning Board Report. Vice Chairwoman Glashoff reported that at their last meeting they reorganized and discussed the 2014 budget; it was a short meeting.

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DB & SADC. The AAC discussed the SADC approved November 14, 2013, Final Decision and Order of Remand (to the CADB) concerning *Feinberg v. Hunterdon CADB, et als.* aka: Stonybrook Meadows.

USDA: Mr. Bauman referred the AAC to two correspondence in their meeting packet:

- USDA plans to provide rural electric cooperatives up to \$250 million to lend to business and residential customers for energy efficiency improvements and renewable energy systems

- Report shows that Farm Bill conservation practices reduce runoff of nutrients, sediment in Chesapeake Bay Watershed

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairwoman Glashoff made a motion, seconded by Mr. DuFosse, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Scott Bauman

Scott Bauman, Recording Secretary
January 13, 2014

MOTION TO APPROVE: Ms. Glashoff

MOTION SECONDED BY: Mr. DuFosse

UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE: March 3, 2014