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**EAST AMWELL FARMLAND/OPEN SPACE PERSERVATION COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES: FEBRUARY 11, 2019  
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 1070 ROUTE 202, RINGOES, NEW JERSEY**

**CALL TO ORDER & OPEN PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE**

Present:

Members: Richard Wolfe, Mayor's Designee  
Peter Fick, Chair  
Fred Gardner, Alternate II  
Tom Jarick  
Tom Rue  
Candice Wiggum, via phone

Absent:

Erica Johanson, Vice Chair  
Paul Sterchele – Historic Preservation Liaison

Others Present:

Cindy Roberts, SADC  
Stefanie Miller, SADC  
Bob Hornby, Hunterdon County  
Ann del Campo, Agricultural Advisory Committee

The meeting was called to order at 7:31p.m. by Chair Fick. In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, it was stated that this was a regular meeting held pursuant to the meeting notice published in the January 24, 2019 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat. On January 31, 2019 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 bulletin board.

**NEW BUSINESS**

As there were representatives from the State Agricultural Development Committee (SADC) and the County Agricultural Development Board, the Committee skipped over the initial agenda items and began the meeting with New Business. Stefanie Miller from SADC made a presentation to the East Amwell Farmland and Open Space Committee and members of the Agricultural Advisory Committee discussing the opportunities for direct easement purchases by the State. It is anticipated that the appropriations for State direct easement purchases will increase next year. The State has evaluated all the properties within East Amwell to determine which ones are best for direct easement.

The Committee members and the State and County officials reviewed the properties on the list from the State and the East Amwell target list. The members discussed the merits of the properties listed as well as the opportunities for preservation that are available. The differences between property owner expectations of value and the State Certified Market Value and how to bridge this difference were discussed.

It was noted that a strong relationship with the farming community would help the preservation effort as well as enhancing the farming community in general. Ms. Fullerton will share the list of

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targeted farms with contact information with all the attendees.

In the State's concluding remarks, Cindy Roberts reviewed a survey that the State wants each township to complete in order for SADC to understand the preferred process for each municipality. It was also announced that the State will be offering grants to help with the planning documents required for the SADC PIG program. She then discussed the cloud-based platform for all applications. This will allow the State to be paperless.

#### **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The minutes from January 14 were tabled to the March 11 meeting.

#### **REPORTS:**

##### **Administrator's Report**

Two and a half weeks ago, Susan Thomas approached the Township wanting to preserve her farm. It will be a Municipal PIG application to the County and State.

The Township will request a supplemental grant of \$350,000 from Green Acres to assist in the Wertsville Industries preservation funding. This request will go to the Township Committee on Thursday. The deadline for the funding request is March 29, 2019.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be March 11, 2019.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Gardner made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Wolfe to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Recording Secretary  
\_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

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