

EAST AMWELL FARMLAND AND OPEN SPACE PERSERVATION COMMITTEE

REORGANIZATION MEETING MINUTES: FEBRUARY 14, 2022

Zoom Platform: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83308800602>

Passcode: FOSPC2021

CALL TO ORDER & STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The reorganization meeting of the East Amwell Farmland and Open Space Preservation Committee (FOSPC) began at 7:37 p.m. In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting was published in the January 27, 2022 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat. A copy of the agenda was forwarded to the Hunterdon County Democrat, filed in the Township Clerk’s Office, posted on the bulletin board and township website.

ROLL CALL

2022 ATTENDANCE

Farmland and Open Space Preservation Committee Members (term expires)	1/10/2022	2/14/2022	3/14/2022	4/11/2022	5/9/2022	6/13/2022	7/11/2022	8/8/2022	9/12/2022	10/10/2022	11/14/2022	12/12/2022
Rick Wolfe (12/2022)	Rescheduled	X										
Erica Johanson (12/2023)		X										
Tom Jarick (12/2022)		X										
Michael Mills (12/2022)		X										

REORGANIZATION

Ms. Merz asked for a nomination for Chairperson. Mr. Wolfe nominated Mr. Mills as Chair. Ms. Johanson seconded the nomination. Ms. Merz called for a vote and the motion was unanimously carried, all in favor.

Ms. Merz asked for a nomination for Vice Chairperson. Ms. Johanson nominated Mr. Jarick as Vice Chair. He accepted the nomination and Mr. Wolfe seconded the nomination. Ms. Merz called for a vote and the motion was unanimously carried, all in favor.

2022 MEETING SCHEDULE

A motion made by Mr. Wolfe and seconded by Mr. Mills to approve the Committee's 2022 meeting schedule was unanimously approved. The Committee will meet the second Monday of each month at 7:30 PM. March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13, July 11, August 8, September 12, October 10, November 14, and December 12.

COMMITTEE LIAISONS

Ms. Merz asked for updates on Committee Liaisons. Mr. Wolfe is the Township Committee liaison; Mr. Mills is the Agricultural Advisory Committee liaison and Ms. Johanson is the Recreation Committee liaison.

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Mr. Wolfe asked if there was a more recent minutes document from 2021. Ms. Merz stated that draft minutes from January 2021 was all she was able to locate. After some discussion about what might have happened to subsequent minutes after the previous secretary's departure, Mr. Wolfe made a motion to accept the January 11, 2021 minutes as presented, which was seconded by Mr. Mills. All in favor.

REVIEW OF BILLS

There were no bills to review.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Seeing no members of the public present, a motion made by Mr. Wolfe, seconded by Mr. Jarick to close the meeting to the public was unanimously approved by voice vote.

REPORTS

Administrator's Report

Ms. Merz stated there have been no new preservation applications received or any that are currently in progress. A previous application, Kanach Thomas Block 21 Lot 13, was completed in June 2021. The Planning Incentive Grant (PIG) application and documentation that is submitted to the NJ State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) on an annual basis in December was submitted by Ms. Merz on 12/9/21. However, since East Amwell's Farmland Preservation Plan (FPP) has not been updated in the last 10 years, it is not currently eligible for PIG funding for 2023. Until the Township's FPP is updated, submitted and approved by the SADC, it will not be eligible for subsequent PIG funding.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business for discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Farmland Preservation Plan

Ms. Merz stated that the current Farmland Preservation Plan (FPP) needs to be updated, approved and submitted to SADC since it has not been updated within the last 10 years. The previous administrator, Ms. Fullerton, was currently working on updating a revised version of the FPP prior to her leaving. Mr. Wolfe asked if the FOSPC budget needed to be increased for professional services, etc., as the Township Committee is currently working on updating the budget. Ms. Merz stated she was not certain that the budget needed to be increased from last year’s budget based on no activity in 2021. Ms. Merz also mentioned possibly using a consultant to pick up where Ms. Fullerton left off and finish updating the plan. Mr. Wolfe stated the work would have to continue to be done in house as there is no room in the budget to hire a consultant for this work. Mr. Wolfe also mentioned the latest revision he received was sent to him by Ms. Fullerton on 6/9/20 and that he would send it to the Committee to review. Mr. Wolfe suggested reaching out to Ms. Fullerton to see if she could give any assistance on where she left off with updating the plan and what still needs to be done. Mr. Wolfe also suggested reaching out to Tamara Lee with the Planning Board because the Planning Board is in the process of doing their master plan update and there may be some overlap between that and the FPP updates. Tamara may be able to provide beneficial assistance to Ms. Merz.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Seeing no members of the public present, a motion made by Mr. Wolfe, seconded by Mr. Jarick to close the meeting to the public was unanimously approved by voice vote.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion made by Mr. Wolfe, seconded by Mr. Jarick to adjourn the meeting at 8:04pm was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Jo Merz, Farmland/Open Space
Preservation Committee Secretary