

**EAST AMWELL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 15, 2023  
EAST AMWELL MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 1070 ROUTE 202, RINGOES, NJ**

**CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE & STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE**

The meeting of the East Amwell Agricultural Advisory Committee began at 7:02 p.m. In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by a notice sent to the official newspapers of the Township, posted on the Township website, posted on the bulletin board of the Municipal building and filed with the Township Clerk as required by law, on February 1, 2023.

**ATTENDANCE – ROLL CALL**

**2023 ATTENDANCE**

Agricultural Advisory Committee Member	1/18/2023	2/15/2023	3/15/2023	4/19/2023	5/17/2023	6/21/2023	7/19/2023	8/16/2023	9/20/2023	10/18/2023	11/15/2023	12/20/2023	
Kit Crisafulli	X	<b>Meeting Cancelled</b>	7:11		<b>No Meeting Scheduled</b>	<b>No Meeting Scheduled</b>							
Bill duFosse	X		X										
John Mills - TC Liaison	X		X										
Michael Mills	A		X										
Christian Mirabito - Chair	X		X										
John Perehynys – Vice Chair	X		A										
Amy Jo Merz, Secretary	X		X										

**AGENDA REVIEW**

There were no items to add to the agenda.

**PRESENTATION OF MINUTES**

**January 18, 2023 Reorganization Minutes** – A motion made by Bill duFosse, seconded by Mike Mills to approve the January minutes was unanimously approved by voice vote

## **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Seeing no members of the public present, a motion made by Mike Mills, seconded by Bill duFosse to close the meeting to the public was unanimously approved by voice vote.

## **REPORTS**

1. FOSPC – Mike Mills reported that we do not have any new preservation activity currently but that FOSPC is currently still working on the Farmland Preservation Plan which we can discuss during the unfinished business portion of the meeting.
2. CADB Meeting – John Perehinys was not present tonight to report on the last meeting.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Deer Management – Bill duFosse reported that he recently applied for the depredation permits for his properties for this year. Previously there was a limit of 10 hunters on the property but this year, it appears that it's either 20 hunters or unlimited on the permit, he is not sure but he filled up two pages. More hunters are allowed which is good. The landowner applies for the permit, adds the hunters who also need to sign, show their purchaser's ID and license number. The application is submitted to Fish and Wildlife and they research/check the application data and as long as everything checks out, the permit is issued to the landowner. Permits are valid through December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. Any landowner that would like an application can find it on the NJ Fish and Wildlife website: <https://dep.nj.gov/njfw/>. Bill duFosse also commented that bow hunting is now an option as well.
2. Master Plan Discussion (land use plan element) – John Mills commented that in January a question was posed asking if the Agricultural Advisory Committee had a recommendation for the Planning Board, would the Planning Board have to act on it. The answer is that the Planning Board could chose not to act on it as the Board is not bound by recommendations from this Committee. However, it is best to always put any recommendations from this Committee in writing to be on record and for discussion with the Planning Board. Mike Mills reported that there was a draft and revisions that Elaina Gable was working on for the land use plan element.
3. Farmland Preservation Plan – Mike Mills reported that SADC said we could use much from our old plan and we didn't need to start from scratch. Ms. Merz has the draft version in pdf form just for reading and also an editable version saved in the Google drive and will send the link to AAC members in the next day or so. Each member can read the pdf draft version of the plan and/or can make comments in the shared document as they read through it. Ms. Merz asked if by the April meeting the members could read through the plan on language specific to agriculture and farming and let her know of any changes needed by the next AAC meeting scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup>. There are no meetings for AAC in May or June but Kit Crisafulli said we could schedule a meeting if needed to approve the Plan. Ms. Merz said she would find out from SADC if approval needs to be done at a special AAC meeting and what the process is for approval.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business to discuss.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Seeing no members of the public present, a motion made by Kit Crisafulli, seconded by Bill duFosse to close the meeting to the public was unanimously approved by voice vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, a motion made by Kit Crisafulli, seconded by Bill duFosse to adjourn the meeting at 7:22pm was unanimously approved by voice vote.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2023 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Amy Jo Merz  
Secretary, Agricultural Advisory Committee