

**EAST AMWELL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 16, 2022
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 7:04 p.m. In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting was published in the March 3, 2022 issue of the Hunterdon County Democrat. A copy of this agenda was forwarded to the Hunterdon County Democrat, filed in the Township Clerk’s Office, posted on the bulletin board and township website.

ATTENDANCE – ROLL CALL

2022 ATTENDANCE

Agricultural Advisory Committee Member	1/19/2022	2/16/2022	3/16/2022	4/20/2022	5/18/2022	6/15/2022	7/20/2022	8/17/2022	9/21/2022	10/19/2022	11/16/2022	12/21/2022	
Kit Crisafulli	Rescheduled – no quorum	X	X										
Ann del Campo		<i>Resigned 2/16/22</i>											
Bill duFosse		X	X										
Michael Mills		X	X										
John Perehinys		X	X										
John Mills (TC Liaison)		X	X										
Secretary		AM	AM										

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Under Correspondence, notice of a Thank You letter sent to Ann del Campo was added. Under New Business, an item was added, “Road Closures for Bike Runs/Fun Run”.

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

February 16, 2022 Minutes

A motion made by John Perehinys, seconded by Bill duFosse to approve the February minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

A motion made by Bill duFosse, seconded by Mike Mills to open the meeting to the public was unanimously approved by voice vote.

A motion made by Bill duFosse, seconded by John Perehynys to close the meeting to the public was unanimously approved by voice vote.

REPORTS

1. FOSPC – A new Farmland Preservation Application was submitted to the County for property located at 51 Saddle Shop Road.
2. CADB Meeting - John Perehynys attended the meeting; there were no new County Ag updates.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Deer Management
As a follow-up from the 2/16/22 meeting, Chair Crisafulli reached out to Bryce Paey at NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife about who holds depredation permits in East Amwell. Mr. Paey said that an OPRA form would need to be submitted in order to obtain permit information. Mr. Paey suggested to look into HHH's South County program and go from there. Chair Crisafulli contacted the NJCF about the hunter who spoke at last month's meeting about seeing an uptick in coyotes on the land he hunts on and them killing many or the deer. The takeaway from NJCF seemed to be that coyotes are part of their deer management plan.

NEW BUSINESS

1. New Member Application – Christian Mirabito
A motion made by Chair Crisafulli, seconded by Mike Mills to approve Christian Mirabito as a new member was unanimously approved by voice vote.
2. Master Plan Discussion (land use plan element)
The land use plan element was discussed during open to the public portion of meeting.
3. Road Closures for Bike Runs/Fun Run
Chair Crisafulli asked John Mills to contact State Troopers who are monitoring the road closures to let farmers pass through as necessary. And also, to contact all of the bike run organizers and have them let all participating bicyclists know that they need to yield to farmers on the roads. There is the "FJCC Farmland Ride 2022" being held on June 12th as well as a few others. Prior to next year's events, possibly write a letter to County and event organizers requesting that events be held outside farming season.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Thank You letter sent to Ann del Campo
Chair Crisafulli sent a letter to Ms. del Campo on behalf of the entire Agricultural Advisory Committee thanking her for her many years of service and commitment to the committee.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

A motion made by Mike Mills, seconded by Bill duFosse to open the meeting to the public was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Darcy Pehinys, 40 Garboski Road, Stockton, NJ – Ms. Pehinys stated she has reviewed the Master Plan for the Village, breaking it down into sections with her comments. Ms. Pehinys will send it to Chair Crisafulli for his review but said her requested changes were mostly about how certain items were worded as they relate to farms and farming businesses and would like the Ag Committee to back these requested changes. Ms. Pehinys is also including some suggestions of different things that could be done to benefit downtown. One item of interest, which was discussed at the small farmers meeting, is the State is looking for interested municipalities to open a meat processing plant. Farming businesses, the community and surrounding counties would benefit from having one here if East Amwell were to consider the idea. Currently, increasing costs of many items is making it more difficult to bring meat to PA, for example, for processing.

Jeff Bowlby, 239 Reaville Road, Flemington, NJ – Mr. Bowlby attended a Farm Bureau Committee meeting in Trenton. Many items were discussed including ways to get more people interested in deer hunting. There seems to be a consensus that it has become a rich person's game. It was mentioned there that Hunters Helping the Hungry (HHH) is looking to expand that program with the freezer trailers and depredation permits into other areas. They are hoping to get 2-3 more trailers to put throughout the State. This past year, it was mostly North Jersey that had trailers; they weren't able to touch on South Jersey so much. If there are more trailers available, Mr. Bowlby suggested getting one in East Amwell to help with deer management here. Mr. Bowlby also mentioned the implementation of the new bike/safety law in which motorists must slow down and move over at least 4 feet to safely pass bicyclists and pedestrians. Mr. Bowlby stated that due to some recent warmer weather, more bicyclists have been out and many are riding in the middle of the road instead of on the shoulder, making it difficult to get by them.

A motion made by John Pehinys, seconded by Mike Mills to close the meeting to the public was unanimously approved by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion made by John Pehinys, seconded by Bill du Fosse to adjourn the meeting at 7:32pm was unanimously approved by voice vote.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Jo Merz
Secretary, Agricultural Advisory Committee