

**EAST AMWELL AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 20, 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 7:02 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		X	X	X								
Ann del Campo	Rescheduled – no quorum	<i>Resigned 2/16/22</i>										
Bill duFosse		X	X	X								
Michael Mills		X	X	X								
Christian Mirabito				X								
John Perehyns		X	X	X								
John Mills (TC Liaison)		X	X	X								
Secretary		AM	AM	AM								

AGENDA REVIEW

There were no items to add to the agenda.

PRESENTATION OF MINUTES

March 16, 2022 Minutes

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

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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

Mary Ann Rieder, 12 Dutch Lane, Ringoes, NJ – Ms. Rieder stated that she received a certified letter that references the Thompson property that goes from Rutgers Nursery to the corner to Dutch Lane. At this point in time, it's unclear through the letter if the plan has been officially filed with the Township of what they want to do with that property. Ms. Rieder came tonight to ask if anyone has any knowledge about filing a plan. Ms. Rieder thought she recalled that Thompson won highway commercial designation with that property but wanted to know. Ms. Rieder asked who is the right board to ask this question. The State sent a letter of interpretation on the wetlands of that property and the wetlands designation was done in 2017. The storm pattern has changed remarkably in the 40 years she has lived here so she would think the town would want a new wetlands assessment done. Ms. Rieder also asked if something is zoned highway commercial, does the right to farming rule still apply if it would be an agricultural use. Ms. Rieder said she has 15 days to respond according to the State's letter, which was dated 4/13/22. She had called the DEP and they said it's 15 days from the filing with DEP.

Judy Grignon, 77 Wertsville Road, Ringoes, NJ – Ms. Grignon said she was at the meeting tonight for the same reason; she had heard rumors of what was happening with the Thompson property. Ms. Grignon stated her little brook is flooding so much now that in 40 years they never needed a sump pump but now have one. Ms. Grignon inquired if there was an idea of what was going to be happening there and how that would affect the brooks in the area constantly flooding, even after the two bridges have been replaced.

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

REPORTS

- 1.** FOSPC – Mike Mills reported that FOSPC is continuing to work on updated the Township's Farmland Preservation Plan. The farmland preservation application that was previously submitted to the County for property located at 51 Saddle Shop Road has been greenlighted by the State.
- 2.** CADB Meeting - John Perehinys reported that the County received a grant to help with updating their farmland preservation plan.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 1.** Deer Management
Chair Crisafulli reached out to the HHH program and they said they would get a trailer to AAC for a week's duration whenever we would like them to drop it off. The trailer will need to be in the shade. More information to come regarding where and when.
- 2.** Master Plan Discussion (land use plan element)
Chair Chrisafulli received the redline draft of the land use plan element of changes that were made at the last Planning Board meeting. Chair Crisafulli discussed the proposed

changes to the land use plan element.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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

Frances Gavigan, 123 Wertsville Road, Ringoes, NJ – Ms. Gavigan stated that there are other parts of the land use plan element that she thinks has a problem and feels that there are more items with this plan that might be of notice to AAC. Ms. Gavigan urges AAC to go back to the plan and review it line by line to see where it could potentially affect AAC and farmers.

A motion made by Christian Mirabito, seconded by John Perehinys to close the meeting to the public was unanimously approved by voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion made by John Perehinys, seconded by John Mills to adjourn the meeting at 7:42pm was unanimously approved by voice vote.

There are no meetings scheduled for May and June. The next meeting is scheduled for July 20, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Jo Merz
Secretary, Agricultural Advisory Committee