

EAST AMWELL FARMLAND AND OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES: AUGUST 15, 2022

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

Passcode: FOSPC2022

CALL TO ORDER & STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

A rescheduled (from 8/8/22), regular meeting of the East Amwell Farmland and Open Space Preservation Committee (FOSPC) began at 7:30 p.m. In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting was published in the August 11, 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	8/15/2022	9/12/2022	10/10/2022	11/14/2022	12/12/2022		
Rick Wolfe (12/2022)	Rescheduled	X	Cancelled	X	Cancelled	X	X	X						
Erica Johanson (12/2023)		X		X		X								
Tom Jarick (12/2022)		X		7:50		7:37	A	<i>Resigned effective 8/8/22</i>						
Michael Mills (12/2022)		X		X		X								

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Ms. Elena Gable with Heyer Gruel & Associates joined the zoom meeting to discuss the Township’s Farmland Preservation Plan; see item “Unfinished Business” below.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Mr. Wolfe made a motion to accept the July 11, 2022 minutes as presented, which was seconded by Ms. Johanson. All in favor.

REVIEW OF BILLS

There were no bills to review.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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

REPORTS

Administrator's Report

There were no new updates.

Committee Liaison Reports

The only update was by Chair Mills regarding the Ag Committee and that they were not able to run the HHH program in July as they had expected per Chair Crisafulli.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Farmland Preservation Plan

Ms. Elena Gable with Heyer Gruel & Associates was present tonight so that the FOSPC Committee could discuss the possibility of Ms. Gable updating the Farmland Preservation Plan (FPP). Mr. Wolfe questioned how the Committee was going to pay for updating the plan if they were to use Heyer Gruel & Associates. Ms. Gable did say that the State offers a grant that covers 50% of the costs to prepare the plan, up to \$20k, and can also be used to fund in-house staff time spent on updating the plan. However, Mr. Wolfe mentioned it would mean that East Amwell would have to pay up front approx. \$25-30k, then would be reimbursed later. Mr. Wolfe did state that after November, it is possible that funds that were budgeted for other items could be used to fund the cost of updating the plan. Mr. Wolfe stated that he would talk to the CFO and see if it could be put on the agenda for the next Township Committee meeting. Ms. Gable also suggested talking with Steve Bruder at SADC to get more information on the State grant program. Mr. Wolfe asked Ms. Merz to send both versions of the FPP to Ms. Gable after the meeting. Mr. Wolfe asked Ms. Gable if she could take a look at the plans and prior to the next Township Committee meeting on Sept 8th, if possible, give a ballpark estimate of what it will take to update them.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Mills informed the committee that member Tom Jarick resigned in early August since he was no longer a resident of East Amwell. There are currently vacancies for 2 regular members and 2 alternates. Mr. Wolfe stated we need to get the word out that FOSPC needs members who care about and are interested in preserving farmland. If the committee members know of anyone that might be interested, please let the other members know. Ms. Johansen mentioned she knows of someone that might be interested and she will reach out to them.

The committee discussed a potential donation of property at 147 Rocktown Road, which is also currently listed for sale, as-is. The property is a wooded parcel of 3.26 acres with many dying ash trees and not in a great location. The current property taxes are approximate \$3k+ per year. The FOSPC Committee decided that it would not be interested in this property. Mr. Wolfe asked Ms. Merz to reach out to the landowner and let them know of the committee's decision.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

A motion made by Mr. Wolfe, seconded by Ms. Johanson to open the meeting to the public was unanimously approved by voice vote. Seeing no members of the public present, a motion made by Mr. Wolfe, seconded by Chair Mills 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 Ms. Johanson to adjourn the meeting at 8:12pm was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Jo Merz, Farmland/Open Space
Preservation Committee Secretary