

October 5, 2009

The Tewksbury Township Agricultural Advisory Committee met at 5:33 pm on the above date at the Mountainville Meeting Hall 60 Water Street, Mountainville.

Members present were: Shaun C. Van Doren, chairman, Theodore G. Koven, Peter L. Melick, and Scott Clucas. Member Terrence McNamara arrived at 5:55 p.m..

Mr. Van Doren read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement indicating the meeting was noticed by the Township Clerk on September 28, 2009.

Minutes

Mr. Koven made a motion to approve the reorganization session minutes of January 19, 2009, seconded by Mr. McNamara. AYES: 3, NAYS: 0, ABSTAIN: 1.

Correspondence

The following correspondence was received:

1. A copy of the Land Use Administrator's Status Report dated September 3, 2009;
2. A copy of a letter dated September 17, 2009 from the NJ Department of Agriculture regarding the Outstanding Young Farmer Program – Call for Nominations.
3. A letter dated August 20, 2009 from the Hunterdon County Agriculture Development Board regarding County and Municipal PIG Programs and Non-profit programs 2010 Round Application deadline.
4. A letter dated July 7, 2009 from the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) regarding the former rule planning incentive grant program account status and ancillary cost reimbursement.
5. A memo dated May 26, 2009 from the SADC regarding a notice of rule amendment adoption regarding appraisals of the current market value of development easements.
6. A memo dated April 29, 2009 regarding proposed changes to the SADC Appraiser Handbook.
7. A memo dated April 13, 2009 regarding notice of proposed readoption of N.J.A.C. 2:76 SADC Committee rules regarding the farmland preservation and right-to-farm programs.
8. A copy of a letter dated January 27, 2009 regarding the 2006 SADC Direct Easement application for Block 31 Lot 12.01 Vincent and Terry Langone – 45 acres – easement value \$ 20,500 per acre for 45 acres.

ORDINANCE REVIEW

There were no ordinances that were referred to the Committee. Mr. Van Doren reviewed the ordinances that had been acted on by the Township Committee since the last meeting.

STATUS OF PENDING FARMLAND APPLICATIONS

Mr. Van Doren distributed a status review of pending farmland applications.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN (FPP)

Mr. Van Doren indicated that there was no status report on the FPP from the State. It is still with the SADC in draft form.

WHITTEMORE DEER ISSUE

There was a discussion by members on the continued deer problem in and around the Oldwick area which several felt was due to the Whittemore Wildlife Sanctuary and the feeding of the deer. It was suggested that money be spent to ring the property with fence to keep the deer in, if the goal was to protect the deer, which would then save Trust monies for patrolling and cause less motor vehicle accidents and potential injuries. Mr. Van Doren indicated that issue was previously raised with the Whittemore Trustees and was denied.

Mr. Koven proposed to request allowing hunting with approval. Mr. Van Doren said that request had been previously made and is in direct conflict with Mrs. Whittemore's will.

A letter was recommended to be sent to the Township Committee to request the Township make the area safer for people and help preserve agriculture and crops as well as preserve homeowner's shrubs and trees. Mr. Koven made the motion to send the letter to the Committee seconded by Mr. Melick. AYES: 5, NAYS: 0.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:16 pm.


Shaun C. Van Doren