

December 20, 2006

The Tewksbury Township Agricultural Advisory Committee met at 5:40 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 and J. Miller Craig.

Mr. Van Doren read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement indicating the meeting was noticed by the Township Clerk on December 12, 2006.

MINUTES

Mr. Craig made a motion to approve the minutes of August 7, 2006. Mr. Van Doren seconded the motion. AYES: 3, NAYS: 0.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following pieces of correspondence were received:

A letter from the SADC dated August 7, 2006 w/ a certification of development easement value for the Crimi Farm;

A copy of Assembly Bill A-3695 providing for the exclusion of certain farm dwellings from the determination of a municipality's fair share of low and moderate income housing obligation.

A copy of Assembly Bill A-3715 requiring State compensation of property owners for certain property devalued due to certain environmental laws.

A letter from the SADC dated October 3, 2006 regarding the appearance of conflicts of interest regarding members of CADBs applying to sell development easements or land in fee simple interest for farmland preservation purposes.

A copy of a letter dated October 11, 2006 from Marci Green, Chief of Legal Affairs at the SADC providing copies of opinions on (1) whether exception areas can be moved after a farm is preserved and (2) whether the SADC can provide grants when easements have already been acquired for an amount greater than the highest appraised value.

Farmland Applications

Tewksbury Associates

The proposed letter to the be sent was reviewed and all were in agreement to have the letter sent by Ms. Goodchild. Mr. Van Doren will forward the letter to her office.

Clucas

As discussed at the last meeting the application will be kept on file and reviewed in the future as other landowners express interest in the Farmersville Road area should the ability arise to put together a PIG application. The Township Committee did not look favorably on preserving this one parcel by itself as there were questions as to whether it could even support a single home with the power line/stanchion present.

Simpson

The Simpson's on Alder Creek Road have filed an application with both the SADC and Township to preserve their farm. They most likely will proceed directly with the SADC since their farm meets the minimum requirements the State has and it will be easier dealing directly with 1 level of government vs. multiple.

Young

There is an issue with regard to the mowing clause in the current County agreement that the Young's object to having as they feel it places a burden on them and future owners. Mr. Van Doren indicated that it is standard language in all easements that the County cost-shares on. The Township Attorney and Administrator are trying to resolve.

FIG 3

The various Emmet properties and the Chandor Farm will be closing in January and February 2007 which will add ~ 200 acres to preservation along the Lamington River /Lamington Road and Cold Brook Road corridors.

Brady/Millhouse

This farm goes back before the Planning Board this evening to seek relief of conditions that the SADC have deemed give the development rights no value.

Schenker

This farm on Fairmount Road West will likely close in March; this is a direct application with the SADC.

Mr. Koven made a motion to enter executive session at 5:55 pm for the purposes of discussing possible development easement acquisition on several parcels, seconded by Mr. Craig. AYES: 3, NAYS: 0.

At 6:10 pm Mr. Koven made a motion to return to public session seconded by Mr. Craig. AYES: 3, NAYS: 0.

Mr. Van Doren indicated a reorganization meeting will be needed in January. Mr. Koven said he will be away the first 3 weeks of January and then the first 2 weeks of February.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:11 pm.


Shaun C. Van Doren