



COLTS NECK FARMLAND PRESERVATION
AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Farmland and Open Space Committee

5/9/11

Meeting Minutes

Attended by: Chairperson Richard Malinowski, Liaison Ed Eastman, Brian Grant, John Jacoby, Thomas Morin, Thomas Orgo, and Richard Rehm

Absent: Patrick Gilmore, Virginia Mumford and Pat Polgar (excused)

Chairperson Malinowski called the meeting to order at 7:30PM. On a motion by Mr. Orgo, and seconded by Mr. Morin, the minutes of the March 14, 2011 meeting were approved.

Old Business

Mr. Malinowski reported that he asked Jim Stuart to speak with Joe Mauro regarding the low price that was erroneously quoted to him. The property must be assessed prior to a price being set, so no reliable amount could have been quoted.

The Cicalese family submitted an application on March 29. They have 16.2 acres, located next to Green Acres and across the road from the preserved Blackburn farm. The State will do the appraisal.

A list of preserved farms has been obtained from Harriet Honigfeld. Mr. Grant and Mr. Morin will investigate which of the farms have Preserved Farmland signs, and which are missing. Mr. Jacoby reported that Harriet Honigfeld visits preserved farms and observes farming practices. There are procedures that the County follows in the instance of preserved farms that are not being used for actual farming practices, as defined by the State. The matter is not referred to the municipality.

Mr. Malinowski reported that he received a financial report, as requested. He noted that the interest from Central Jersey Bank is only 0.75%, and suggested that the funds be moved elsewhere. The cost of bonding is about 5%. Mr. Morin declared 5% is not a good float with only 0.75% coming in.

New Business

Mr. Rehm agreed to update the target list.

Liaison Report

Mr. Eastman answered questions regarding decisions on spending of dedicated taxes. Only one referendum has been held regarding the rate of this tax. Allegations of any decision to use dedicated taxes for maintenance may stem from a remark made by the mayor last year, but no such decision has been made, nor has the Township Committee decided to hold a referendum on such possible spending.

MCADB Report

Becker Tree Service, which processes trees on 40 acres located at the end of Obre Road, has requested that the County approve the land as farmland. However, tree processing does not count as farm production.

Princeton Nurseries has preserved 1,900 acres as both parkland and farmland, mostly in Monmouth County, with a smaller portion in Burlington and Mercer Counties. This brings the total of preserved land in Upper Freehold Township to 10,000 acres. The 16-acre Olbiss farm in Freehold has been preserved.

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On a motion by Mr. Rehm, and seconded by Mr. Grant, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM. Next meeting will be on Monday, June 20, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Terry
Secretary