



COLTS NECK FARMLAND PRESERVATION
AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Farmland and Open Space Committee

3/10/14

Meeting Minutes

Attended by: Chairman Ed Eastman, III, Liaison Michael Fitzgerald, David Barclay, John Jacoby, Thomas Morin, Richard Rehm and Al Yodakis

Absent: Brian Grant

Guest: Committeeman Tom Orgo

Mr. Orgo reviewed the 22 months since the committee last met. The County closed on the Cicalese farm three weeks ago. A sign is needed there. Mr. Orgo reported a new requirement of at least three working farmers on any subcommittee considering a farmland purchase. Mr. Morin remarked that there should be more farmers on the parent committee. Mr. Orgo further reported on revised requirements that go into effect in July for assessment as farmland. The land must be used to grow a crop before it is eligible, and continue to grow a crop each year to remain eligible. Bees and recreational horses do not count toward eligibility. The farm must produce at least \$1,000 worth of crop in each year. Mr. Orgo noted that the official soil quality designation depends on the number of bushels of corn per acre that it can produce in one year. Mr. Fitzgerald remarked that the primary goal of the committee is to remove land from the tax rolls, and education is a complementary goal.

Reorganization

On a poll of the members, Mr. Eastman acknowledged that he was willing to accept the chairmanship. On a motion by Mr. Jacoby and seconded by Mr. Rehm, Mr. Eastman was unanimously voted as Chairman by voice vote. On a motion by Mr. Rehm and seconded by Mr. Yodakis, Mr. Morin was unanimously voted as Vice-chairman by voice vote. Mr. Jacoby offered to continue to be Liaison to the Monmouth County Agriculture Development Board. Mr. Rehm and Mr. Eastman offered to join him in this. Meetings will be held monthly, except in July and August, 2014.

Old Business

Mr. Fitzgerald and Mr. Orgo led a discussion of possible farms for the Target List. Tim Anfuso should have an updated list. Mr. Yodakis offered to draft a new recruitment letter.

Liaison Report

Mr. Jacoby reported that the State has educational seminars for farmers every two years.

New Business

Mr. Fitzgerald suggested an Open House to educate local farmers about preservation possibilities and new assessment requirements. Mr. Yodakis suggested a representative from the State be invited to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 PM. Next meeting will be on Monday, April 14, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Terry
Secretary