



AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

June 21, 2018

8:00PM

PRESENT

Bob Puskas, Chair

Cathy Blumig

Councilman Ted Chase

Frank Hasner

Al Puchalek

Call to Order in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Puskas at 8:08PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

As no members of the public were present, there was no public comment to report.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Cathy Blumig made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 15, 2018 meeting. The motion was seconded by Al Puchalek and approved by all. The motion carried.

HUNTING PROGRAM: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2018-2019

Tara Kenyon presented background information, statistics from last year and recommendations for the upcoming Deer Management Program in Franklin Township. The AAC agreed with recommendations presented and added input, including:

- Closing Negri-Nepote Grasslands and Ten-Mile Run Greenway for the entirety of the firearm season
- All firearms will be banned from Season 2 (including muzzleloader)
- Signage will be redrafted to be more clear
- Students from a Master's GIS class at Rutgers will perform a studio in the Township focused on the population, habitat, movement patterns and behaviors of deer in the Township

These recommendations will be presented to Council for approval at the July 10th meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Deed Of Easement Monitoring Process for 2018

Tara Kenyon asked for feedback regarding the Deed of Easement monitoring for preserved farmland. She recommended monitoring in October-November to capture agritourism and recent production. The members of the AAC agreed with this approach.

OLD BUSINESS

Farmers Market

The Farmers Market continues to be well-attended, with a total of 13 vendors and most weeks having over 400 visitors. The last day of the Farmers Market will be held as part of Franklin Day on September 22nd at Colonial Park.

A request was made to ask the Council to move the County's Household Hazardous Waste Day next year to another location in the Township or an alternative time as to reduce traffic backlog on DeMott Lane. This traffic made getting to the Farmers Market nearly impossible, costing our vendors significant income for that day.

This year, the Farmers Market will participate in National Farmers Market Week during August. Staff will work with vendors to create activities and food tastings throughout the day.

Signage

The signage at Catalpa is not effective at keeping visitors from going towards the private residence. Tara Kenyon will work with DPW to get signage drafted and created soon.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Cathy Blumig made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss current negotiations and real estate transactions. This motion was seconded by Frank Hasner and agreed upon by all.

Following Executive Session, Cathy Blumig made a motion to exit Executive Session, which was seconded by Al Puchalek.

ADJOURNMENT

Frank Hasner made a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Cathy Blumig. The meeting adjourned at 9:45PM.

