



AGRICULTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES

January 17, 2019
8:00PM

PRESENT

Bob Puskas, Chair
Ted Chase, Council Liaison
Rik Johnson (alternate)
Frank Hasner
Al Puchalek
Craig Feibel
Cathy Blumig
Tara Kenyon, Land Preservation and Management Consultant

REORGANIZATION OF COMMITTEE

Nominations for Chair – Frank Hasner made a motion to nominate Bob Puskas as Chair. Al Puchalek seconded and all approved.

Nominations for Vice-Chair – Al Puchalek made a motion to nominate Cathy Blumig for Vice-Chair. Frank Hasner seconded and all approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

A motion to open the meeting to the Public was made by Frank Hasner and seconded by Cathy Blumig. All agreed and the meeting was opened.

Seeing no members of the Public present, Craig Feibel made a motion to close the Public portion of the meeting, which was seconded by Frank Hasner. All agreed and the Public portion of the meeting was closed.

NEW BUSINESS

Annual Report: Tara Kenyon presented the draft 2018 Annual Report of the Open Space Advisory Committee. The AAC would like to have a separate slide specific to agriculture and farmland preservation placed in the final draft.

Goals for 2019: The Committee discussed the following goals for 2019:

1. Preserve more farms

2. Continued outreach to potential preservation; reach out to all eligible farms that are not preserved
3. Outreach to public (non-farmers) about agriculture; work with library to get a display – current preserved farms (photos, map, produced); educational benefits of agriculture
4. Work with schools, environmental clubs
5. Research the possibility of documenting agricultural practices in Franklin (original thought was for a video)

Meeting Dates for Next Year: The existing ordinance states that the AAC reports directly to the Planning Board, but this Board has been reporting directly to OSAC. The Committee would like to reduce the waiting time for farmland preservation applications by not having to wait for the OSAC meeting (which typically occurs before the AAC meetings on a monthly basis). Tara will ask the Township Manager if the AAC can order appraisals for farmland preservation parcels only without waiting for OSAC approval. If this cannot be done, the Committee will decide if moving the meeting dates is the best option.

OLD BUSINESS

2019 Farmers Market: The Farmers Market Committee will meet in the next few weeks to discuss the 2019 Season. Recommendations from the AAC were as follows:

- Need better Facebook presence; getting an Instagram account
- Social marketing
- Need about 750/week to be successful; first ever opening week had 2000
- Signs were not placed correctly; too much language on banner
- Fliers to schools are not worth it
- More signage needed at public places
- Cathy will potentially do a honey extraction demo at Parkside in March – ask Saffie

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss current negotiations and real estate transactions was made by Frank Hasner and seconded by Al Puchalek. All agreed and the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Frank Hasner and seconded by Al Puchalek. All agreed and the meeting was adjourned at 9:03PM.