

Hopewell Valley Agricultural Advisory Committee

February 2, 2016
Board minutes

Present:

Lucia Huebner (chair), Anne Carcagno, Christopher Pazdan, George Sciarrotta, Mitchel Skolnick

John Hart (Township Committee liaison)

Robert Miller (Administrative Officer),

Dan Knox (SADC)

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM

Committee reorganisation:

Lucia Huebner and Anne Carcagno were sworn in for a new term.

The nominaton were voted on and approved as follows:

Lucia Huebner - chair, Christopher Pazdan - vice chair, Anne Carcagno - secretary.

Working Items

Dan Knox from SADC (State Agriculture Development Committee) attended the meeting to encourage us to focus on our P.I.G.(Planning Incentive Grant) Applications.

We currently have \$1,038,000 FADC funds allocated to hopewell township to aid in farmland preservation,

\$38,000 in 2009 funding, \$500,000 in FY 11 funds, and \$500,000 in FY 13 funds.

The \$38,000 are most at risk of being reallocated so it behoves us to spend that first. The problem is that the township has to come up with 40% or \$415,200 for the total amount.

John Hart is going to find out the availability of funds the township could use to allow us the use of PIG moneys.

A discussion about which of the projects should be pursued. Herbert/Auer was discussed as to location and logic, nothing was concluded but we certainly mean to pursue it. Leeper seemed to not be ideal being only 29.3 acres and not in an ideal location. Open Space are pusuing Hoch and Hoffman.

Mitchel Skolnick was hoping the state would fund sires-stakes out of new casinos and thereby encourageing horse farming in New Jersey.

New buisness

Robert English corresponded with Lucia Huebner proposing a voluntary and free, livestock registration for farms as a means to identify loose livestock, securing them and transporting them back to their owners. The only objection was the danger of introducing diseased animal and contaminating the temporary host of the loose animals.

Trains through the township, reverse 911 in case of an emergency, and COAH were briefly mentioned but nothing resulted.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 1st at 7 PM

The Meeting went into closed session and adjourned at 9 PM