

**SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP FARM COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF February 26, 2019**

PRESENT: Kaitlin Farbotnik (Chair), Tim Luccaro (Vice Chair), Graham Phillips, Josh Perlsweig, Gary Manoff, Craig Haney, Kevin Morrissey (Liaison) and Nicole Slack (Administrator)

AUDIENCE: Phil Johnson

I. OPENING OF MEETING

Chair Farbotnik called the meeting to order at 7:05pm

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Tim Luccaro, seconded by Josh Perlsweig, the minutes of the November 27, 2018 Farm Committee meeting unanimously approved.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Tim Luccaro motions to elect Kaitlin Farbotnik to Chair, Mr. Perlsweig seconds; passed unanimously. Ms. Farbotnik motions to elect Tim Luccaro to Vice Chair, Mr. Perlsweig seconds, passed unanimously.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Farm Committee Meeting Dates

Discussion on the possibility to meet more frequently; at this time the committee did not feel as though it was necessary; will revisit discussion in future if it feels as though more meetings are needed. The subcommittees will meet to work on specific initiatives between meetings.

Finalization of High Tunnel/Passive Green House/ Agricultural Ordinance

The Committee continued discussion concerning setbacks for locations relative to high tunnels. Mr. Perlsweig will meet with the Planning Commission prior to Planning Commission meeting in March to clarify ordinance issues. The objective is to revise the ordinance to maintain a more favorable approach for farmers and communicate changes to the Township Solicitor to revise and send a draft ordinance to the Board of Supervisors to review.

Revive New Farmer Program

The concentration will be placed upon identifying owners willing to lease property to new farmers. Initially it was discussed to have a mailing sent out with follow up phone call, agreement was made that verbal contact may be more effective, additional efforts will be made to develop a mailing list.

Mr. Perslweig and Mr. Luccaro will work as a subcommittee to better identify ways for outreach. Phil Johnson offered to include a question of preserved land owners to see if they are interested in leasing property to potential farmers during annual visits.

Land Preservation Committee Updates

Phil Johnson was asking for assistance from the Farm Committee to assist in advertising the Land Preservation Forum. Consensus was to advertise the LPC on the Solebury Farmers Facebook page. Mr. Johnson offered to provide a list of potential properties to the Township to help better identify land owners who could be invited to a New Farmers forum.

Drone Usage for Annual Farm Visits

Briefly discussed the possibility of allowing drones to monitor properties; the committee was against the possibility. Concerns were raised relative to disturbing the animals and violation of privacy. The Farm Committee finds it favorable to walk the property with a land preservation representative to discuss the property and address any concerns.

County Policy / Composting Restrooms for Farm Workers

Continued discussion from previous meeting addressing concerns of septic use and possibility of composting restrooms; Mr. Perslweig reached out to the Township Zoning Officer and the health department stated that a permit was required but to follow the manufacturer's guidelines. In conclusion, the composting toilet did not appear to be a solution or any less of an issue than a traditional toilet installation.

Farm to Table Dinner

A subcommittee of Mr. Perslweig, Ms. Farbotnik and Mr. Manoff will handle the events and details of a farm to table dinner. Ms. Farbotnik suggested the dinner to promote local farms and as a way to integrate property owners into the Farm process.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT – No Public Comment

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Upon a Motion by Ms. Farbotnik, seconded by Mr. Perslweig, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole Slack
Farm Committee Administrator