

Solebury Township Farm Committee
June 29, 2021
Virtual Meeting

Minutes

Attendance: Kaitlin Farbotnik, Graham Phillips, Tim Luccaro, Gary Manoff, Buz Teacher Kevin Morrissey (Supervisor Liaison), Nicole Slack (Township Administration) Absent: Josh Perlsweig, Craig Haney, Thomas Mancini, Lars Crooks

I. Call to Order

Kaitlin Farbotnik called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm

II. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Gary Manoff seconded Tim Luccaro, the minutes of the April 27, 2021, Farm Committee meeting were unanimously approved.

III. Announcements

Buz Teacher wanted to applaud Nate Spence from the USDA for successfully managing the deer on his property. Buz indicated that Nate is far more aggressive with his approach which is proving to be helpful.

Kevin Morrissey indicated the Board of Supervisors is exploring options on ways to reduce the herd. The use of drones has proven far more favorable in the attempt to count the deer population. Previous year was done by sampling, but annual maintenance was not followed up on.

The Environmental Advisory Committee is pursuing neighboring areas and Townships to see if they are making efforts to be involved in controlling the deer population. Main question is if the Township should move forward or wait for other Municipalities.

IV. New Business

V. Discussion Items

Farmers Market

Kaitlin Farbotnik provided an update that Josh Perslweig forwarded the Farmers Market survey to the Food Shed Alliance. The Food Shed Alliance did not have any additional input and they too are willing to send the survey out in addition to the Township. The Committee will ask the Township to send out the survey using survey monkey and the Township distribution list.

Landowner Match Program

The website is still in the process of being developed; current phase of trying to integrate a mapping feature. The subcommittee will meet to discuss community outreach.

Feasibility of Identifying Farms

Kevin Morrissey posed the question, “is identifying farms within the community feasible?”. Kevin stated that the Township is willing to add a layer to their GIS mapping feature, which will identify farms in Solebury Township.

The committee discussed the benefits of farms being included on this map, but are concerned with placing farms on the list and/or map that were not necessarily interested. The Committee would like to have a disclaimer that anyone interested in visiting a farm, should directly contact that farm. Providing a list of commercial farms on the Township Website would be beneficial for those businesses.

Advertising that Solebury Township supports farmers is more appealing to attracting tourists and those pursuing the area to live.

Bucks County Extension at one time had produced a brochure that farms would pay a minimal fee to advertise in. The Land Trust Website also has a list of farms. Tim Luccaro will look into the list that the Committee had previously started.

Committee Members

Josh Perlsweig will be stepping down as a Farm Committee member. Interested parties should contact Kevin Morrissey.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 27th- Kaitlin will reach out to committee members to determine if a change of date is needed.

VI. Public Comment

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole Slack
Farm Committee Administrator