

Solebury Farm Committee
May 26, 2026
Hybrid Meeting

Minutes

In attendance: Josh Perlsweig, Graham Phillips, Gary Manoff, Tim Luccaro, Kevin Morrissey (Supervisor Liaison), Renee Scally (Administration Liaison)

Zoom: Marissa Cloutier, Terry Clemons (Solicitor)

Absent: Lars Crooks, Kaitlin Farbotnik

I. Call to order

Josh Perslweig called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

II. Approval of Minutes

Gary Manoff made a motion to approve the minutes, 2nd by Tim Luccaro, all in favor.

III. Announcements –

The Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for May 27, 2026, to talk about both ordinances.

IV. Administrative Business

a. Farm Tour

The committee is waiting to hear back from Annelise on the date and further information. Blueberries are in season at the end of June, beginning of July. This could be a perfect time.

b. Comprehensive Plan Updates

Tim Luccaro told the Farm Committee, they are in the review process, and they are looking over the Comprehensive Plan line by line. The next draft should be ready the following week. They have a working session scheduled for June 8, 2026.

V. Local Farm Crisis: Addressing Crop Loss & Support Strategies

It was noted that the state offers relief funds; however, Bucks County was not designated as an eligible county. Amy Manoff (Gary's wife) reached out to State Representative Tim Brennan and State Senator Steve Santarsiero but has not received a response. Kevin Morrissey stated that he will follow up with both offices.

Gary Manoff will speak with the Bucks County Farm Bureau regarding the crop losses caused by the April freeze. He noted that while farms remain open, they will look very different this year compared to previous seasons. He emphasized that although only a few farms in Bucks County were affected, they deserve the same level of assistance as farms in other counties.

Kevin Morrissey will speak to the township manager regarding these concerns.

VI. Committee Member Comment

Marissa Cloutier will contact both State Representative Tim Brennan and State Senator Steve Santarsiero, along with the Herald about the Corn Hole Classic on June 4, 2026.

VII. Public Comment

Bonnie Chang asked how many farms were affected by the April freeze. According to Gary Manoff, at least four fruit farms were impacted, including crops such as peaches, strawberries, and blueberries. He reported that he lost all his peach harvest and likely all of his apples. The freeze affected a wide region, from New York down to the Carolinas.

Ms. Chang also inquired about potential long-term effects. Gary Manoff indicated that the trees appear healthy, so conditions should recover and be fine for next year. Additionally, Ms. Chang suggested starting a GoFundMe campaign and offered her support to help with the effort.

Lucia Simonelli suggested that the state could potentially reallocate funds from the Avian Flu budget to support farmers, noting that those funds have gone unused for years. She also recommended reaching out to state legislators, as she believes they would be the most effective avenue for pursuing this assistance.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm by Graham Phillips, 2nd by Gary Manoff

Respectfully Submitted,
Renee Scally