

Solebury Township Farm Committee
January 25, 2022
Virtual Meeting

Minutes

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

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Minutes

November meeting minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

III. Announcements

IV. New Business

Formal Selection of Committee Leadership

Tim Luccaro is nominated as the Chair for the Farm Committee for 2022.

Kaitlin Farbotnik is nominated as Vice Chair for the Farm Committee for 2022.

V. Discussion Items

Meeting Dates for 2022

Gary Manoff motioned for the Farm Committee to meet every other month, seconded by Kaitlin Farbotnik. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Dates: 3/25, 5/24, 6/26, 9/27, 11/29

2022 Objectives

1. Zoning/Legal Issues/Restrictions
2. Agricultural Promotion either via website or brochure

Gary Manoff, Lars Crooks and Graham Phillips will be part of a sub-committee to discuss housing and develop a list of items that need to be addressed.

The Township purchased a property on 202. The Farm Committee was looking to send a survey out regarding farmers markets and the need or desire for residents. The Township was going to send a survey out to residents polling residents how they would like the newly purchased property to be used. The Committee would like to piggy-back off that survey and include farmers market related questions as a proposed option.

Roots to River Presentation

Josh Perlsweig was present to introduce the Roots to River crew (Malaika Spencer & Ian Knauer along with Karl Wagner & Breezy Mehringer). Josh gave a brief overview of their property, discussed easement restrictions (prohibits almost all commercial uses). Josh and his wife Natalie purchased a residential dwelling that sits at the front of their current property. The goal is to merge the two properties together and Malaika and Ian will utilize the front house as the “business”. The main goal of Roots to River is to get their vegetables to the people.

An application has been made with the Zoning Hearing Board for approval. Concept includes having a CSA, a small winery distribution, farm to table experience of approximately 20 seats. The Zoning Ordinance classifies these three as separate uses. This is posing a challenge, along with other concerns such as parking and traffic.

The Committee will draft a letter of support of the Roots to River Farm operation to provide to the Zoning Hearing Board.

Gary Manoff motioned to form a sub-committee to draft a letter in support of the Roots to River Farm; seconded by Lars Crooks. Passes unanimously. Committee is comprised of Lars Crooks, Gary Manoff and Graham Phillips.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 24, 2022 at 7pm.

VI. Public Comment

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole Slack
Farm Committee Administrator