

Solebury Township Farm Committee
Tuesday, March 30, 2021
Virtual Meeting

Minutes

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

I. Call to Order

Kaitlin Farbotnik called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

II. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Gary Manoff seconded by Craig Haney, the minutes of the February 23, 2021, Farm Committee meeting were unanimously approved.

III. Announcements

IV. New Business

V. Discussion Items

Farmers Market Survey

Josh Perlsweig continued research on the survey and gathered information regarding possible questions for the survey. The Farm Committee will continue to work on gathering information to contrive a list of questions to be sent out to residents.

The Farm Committee would like to propose a deadline of two weeks to gather the necessary information and develop the questions. Josh Perlsweig will follow up with the Food Shed Alliance after a list of questions has been completed.

Landowner Match Program

Kaitlin Farbotnik had a discussion with Dave Johnson from the Land Trust of Bucks County about partnering up to further progress the Landowner Match Program. Dave Johnson and the Land Trust of Bucks County are extremely interested and this concept was something the Land Trust was interested in doing previously. Dave Johnson reached out to the County and they provided \$2,500 to help with the project costs. They are in the midst of redesigning their website and are working in a way to add the platform to their website, including resources for farmers and landowners as well as outreach events/workshops.

Dave Johnson brought the idea to the board of Land Trust and they approved the request to work concurrently with the Farm Committee for the Landowner Match Program. The idea is if anyone wants to join this program, they will need to register through the webpage at no charge. Once registered they would be able to add pertinent information such as a profile and talk about size of farm, preferences for organic, limited pesticides, what geographical area farmers are willing to travel to.

A concern is that once there is a connection, how does the farmer "leave" the site. A second concern was how is this program advertised and marketed to keep the program as a viable entity. There are additional resources that can be added to the platform including a link to the County GIS system so that farmers can complete research on the property including the soil information, layers, topography, map out tillable acreage.

The platform will be used for farmers and landowners to post information and those individuals will be responsible for making a connection on their own. The Land Trust would require individuals to sign a waiver.

Josh Perslweig made a motion to continue to pursue this platform conditional upon approval from the Board of Supervisors. Kaitlin Farbotnik seconded the motion; passes unanimously.

The Farm Committee created a subcommittee of three members, Kaitlin Farbotnik, Josh Perslweig and Gary Manoff. Kaitlin will be the point person for the program when it comes to discussions with the Land Trust of Bucks County and the County.

VI. Public Comment

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole Slack
Farm Committee Administrator