

Solebury Township Farm Committee
June 23, 2020
Virtual Meeting

MINUTES

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

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Tim Luccaro, seconded by Mr. Buz Teacher, the minutes of the January 23, 2020 Farm Committee meeting unanimously approved.

III. Announcements

IV. New Business

V. Discussion Items

Farmers Market

Josh Perlsweig spoke with members at Food shed alliance event that took place in Buckingham. Feedback from other farmers thought the market was saturated and farm market outlets are plentiful. Not a lot of enthusiasm from others to bring product to another market. If there was a desire for a farmer's market in the future, partnering with the Food Shed Alliance would be a wise decision.

Result, a farmer's market is not feasible at this point. The committee explored alternatives to a traditional farmers market and perhaps incorporating the agricultural side with artists, musicians, coffee and pastries to make it feel more like a community event. Considering this type of atmosphere, markets have a better turn out on Thursday and Friday nights and weekends.

The committee agreed to table the idea for the time being and will revisit the discussion in the spring.

Farm Committee Facebook

Discussion was centered around the benefits of the Facebook page, how to make better use of it. The idea behind the page is to promote local business, including farmers. It is considered a possibility to use the page as a tool to connect farmers with landowners and vice versa. Supervisor Kevin Morrissey manages the Facebook page.

Farmer Match Program

Kaitlin Farbotnik stated that the Board of Supervisors is looking for a report by the end of the year outlining the feasibility of a Farmer Match Program. The report should include outlets that were explored and the feasibility of each. It is suggested that the committee members take on tasks to prepare the report.

DelVal was originally an option, although it is no longer feasible.

Josh Perlsweig spoke with BCCD who wanted to know more about what the committee's goal was and what they were looking to do.

The idea is to do something that focuses more on Solebury, which will be more meaningful for Township to focus on an effort to work with neighboring towns and counties. It is a possibility to seek other partners and institutions. Additionally, taking a more approach regional then just boundaries of Township may be beneficial.

Members of the Farm Committee are interested in facilitating conversations with the residents and farmers on Township Website; asking landowners/farmers to reach out to the committee. It is possible on a smaller scale in the short term and for long term to look at other partnerships. Kevin Morrissey will check with Solicitor on what can and cannot be done in regards to Township website. Alternatives include utilizing the Facebook page or advertising in the newspaper.

In conclusion, the committee members each took on tasks. Kaitlin Farbotnik will compile the report, including the details of what other members researched. Kaitlin will also reach out to the Conservation District. Gary Manoff will reach out to Heritage and personal contacts to see if there is interest in participating in a Farmer Match Program. Buz Teacher will work on outreach with landowners, farmers and realtors. Josh Perlsweig will connect with Helen Tai regarding the County's Environment and Energy Committee and sustainable agriculture. Tim Luccaro will compile a spreadsheet to track available land/farmers, type of farm and acreage.

Meeting Frequency

The committee agreed to meet monthly versus quarterly. Kaitlin Farbotnik made a motion, Gary Manoff seconds. The next meeting is scheduled for July 28th at 7pm via Zoom.

VI. Public Comment

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole Slack
Farm Committee Administrator