MINUTES

Bernards Township Agricultural Advisory Committee

Thursday, September 23, 2021 at 7:00 PM

Attendees: Committee: Carol English, Mariellen Keefe, Tyson Mertz, Jim Milito, Tyler Seville, Debra DeWitt, Jim Baldassare acting as TC Liaison; Todd Edelstein, resident

BUSINESS:

- Statement of the Open Public Meetings Act was read

- SADC Update
  - From May mtg: Reviewed purpose of Draft Soil Protection Standards for preserved farms. Reviewed RTF Amendment Memo extending RTF protection eligibility for the housing of full time, year round equine related farm employees in the same building or facility as horses.
  - Per notice from SADC: Reviewed requirement to maintain an updated Farmland Preservation Plan (FPP) for PIG eligibility. The FPP must be reviewed and readopted every 10 years to maintain eligibility. Bernards Township FPP is not currently approved.

- Annual Activities
  - Our annual Farmers Meeting is scheduled for Nov 18, Jon Knox, chair of the Somerset County Board of Agriculture will be invited to speak. Deb and Jim will head up the meeting details and invites.

- Community Outreach
  - Draft of the Farmer Survey was reviewed, further comments to be sent to Tyler. Options for posting the information were discussed
  - Following inquiries from residents, the Committee put together information on the requirements for keeping livestock on residential property. This has been posted to a FAQ section that has been added to the Committee website.
  - An interaction map showing several local farms was put together by Tom Timko as a template. The Committee reviewed the map and suggested adding color coding to identify which farms are retail, accessible to visitors, closed to the public etc. Carol will follow up with a draft for review. Information from farmer survey will also be considered before finalizing the map.

- No Public Comment

Submitted by C. English
On behalf of the Agricultural Advisory Committee