

## MINUTES

Bernards Township Agricultural Advisory Committee  
Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 7:00 PM

<b>Attendees:</b>	Carol English	Todd Edelstein	resident
	Mariellen Keefe	Walter Lane	Somerset Cty
Committee:	Tyson Mertz	Ellen Pinson	BT farmer
	Jim Milito	Jeannie Milito	BT farmer
	Tyler Seville	Dan Milito	BT farmer
	Debra DeWitt	Jon Knox	SC Board of Ag
		Leon Harris	BT Deer Mgt Com

### BUSINESS:

- Statement of the Open Public Meetings Act was read
- Community Outreach
  - Tyler discussed the status of the farmer survey and asked for input from those attending
  - Agreement was reached on the interactive farm map to include historic agricultural sites, retail and non-retail farm locations
- The Environmental Commission in conjunction with several Township Committees conducted a pumpkin smash at a local farm in early November. The event was cosponsored by English Farm and Dogwood Farms in Liberty Corner. Around 150 residents participated and brought their Halloween pumpkins to smash and feed the pigs. Over 80 pumpkins were diverted from landfills during this event.
- Farmer Meeting
  - Jon Knox, owner of Dogwood Farms and chair of Somerset County Board of Agriculture discussed wildlife management issues facing farmers including the impact on deer of the hemorrhagic disease prevalent after hurricane Ida. There was a significant die off in the weeks following the hurricane. Leon Harris discussed the activities of the Deer Management Committee and tracking deer populations in the Township.
  - Walt Lane who heads up the newly created Somerset County Office of Planning, Policy and Economic Development provided details of several programs promoting farms and farming in the County. His office combines planning, with an emphasis on those programs combining elements of historic preservation, farms and economic development. He also indicated those interested in preserving their farms can contact his office with inquiries as the County has funding for farmland preservation.
- No Public Comment

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