



# Township of Pittsgrove

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## Agriculture Advisory Committee

Regular Meeting Minutes  
November 20th, 2019

Facsimile:  
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3055

1. Meeting called to order by Vice-Chairman Millard Paulus at 7:28 p.m.
2. Flag Salute
3. Open Public Meeting Statement: in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the date of this meeting was duly advertised by a notice published in The Daily Journal.
4. Attendance: Millard Paulus, Herb Wegner, Roger Ward, Deb Wegner, Tom Hickson, Byron Dubois, Katie Mazzella/SADC.
5. Approval of the minutes of the September 18th, 2019 Regular Meeting: committee reviewed. *Motion to approve by Roger, seconded by Herb, all in favor.*
6. New Business:

Katie did a presentation about the NJBlueprint.org online mapping system. She showed us an overview of the different information available and its relevance to preservation. The state may have funding in the next year or two to keep the site more current.

Eileen received an email from Land Conservancy regarding the new 10-year Farmland Preservation Plan. She has arranged to talk with Barbara Davis on Monday concerning our needs and how they can support them. They have been invited to our January meeting to discuss it with the committee. She will also reach out to Delaware Valley Regional Planning who wrote our last plan.

7. Old Business: status of current preservation efforts.

Rodriguez – closed in September.

Rizzo and Eric Mihalecz have accepted their offers. Title and survey quotes received today for both applicants.

Helig – contract has been signed by all parties and returned to Kris Alexander.

Teresa Mihalecz – her will has been probated and Eric will clear enough land to meet the tillable minimum. His father may add another parcel to the application.

JWP Properties – will receive their offer on 12/5.

Bauman – received an offer that she's discussing with her accountant. Should have a decision shortly.

Dennis Crisanti – Katie pointed out that he has a house, and other buildings, on his property which are not listed on the application. He may want to put them in an exception area. Also, his wife is on the deed and will need to sign the application. Katie will call him and set up a meeting in the next few weeks to get these issues resolved.

8. Correspondence: none

9. Member Comments: Herb wanted to know if he could sell wine, made offsite from his grapes, at his farm. Katie suggested he talk to Liquor Control about what would be needed to do that.

Katie updated the committee on a Supreme Court decision where a grower in Huntingdon County cut 17% of his farm soil down to bedrock to level it for new hoop houses. They decided that it must be restored to its original condition. Based on a Rutgers/Rowan study the SADC has determined that 8% of a property can be disturbed. It's about the ability to reverse such undertakings. The state needs to define soil protection standards.

She also discussed Special Occasion Events on Preserved Wine Farms. That pilot program expires next year and the state is working on a report that will limit the number of events that can take place in a given year based on farm income. The report will be informational and the state will have to decide to continue the pilot program as is, or limit it as suggested.

8. Public Comments: none

9. Adjournment: 8:10 p.m. *Motion by Roger, seconded by Byron, all in favor.*

**NEXT MEETING IS JANUARY 15TH, 2020**