



# Township of Pittsgrove

---

Agriculture Advisory Committee

Facsimile:  
(856) 358-  
3055

Teleconference Meeting Minutes  
July 15, 2020

1. Meeting called to order by Vice-Chairman Millard Paulus at 7:37 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, South Jersey or Elmer Times. Change of format notice transmitted to the Elmer Times and posted on the Township website.
4. Attendance: Millard Paulus, Deb and Herb Wegner, Sean Collins, Eric Harz, Eric Davis. *Due to a lack of quorum, approval to allow alternates to vote was requested - motion by Millard, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Herb, all in favor.*

Eileen noted that since the agenda was prepared Byron Dubois submitted his resignation. He's applying for preservation. Millard is willing to serve as Chair, Herb volunteered to be co-Chair, Deb becomes a regular member and Sean is now Alternate #1. *Motion to approve by Millard, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Herb, all in favor.*

5. Approval of the minutes of the May 20, 2020 Teleconference Meeting. *Motion to approve by Herb, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Deb, all in favor.*
6. New Business:

Webinar – No-Till & Cover Crop Implementation, NJ Ranked #1 for Addressing Loss of Farmland

Eileen will email the committee information about taking the webinar

Committee also discussed the multi-year study conducted by the American Farmland Trust which ranked NJ #1 in policies and programs to stem the loss of farmland. Eileen will email the complete article to all members tomorrow.

7. Old Business:

Ag Committee Membership – committee welcomed new member Sean Collins. Byron Dubois has officially resigned (see above for committee changes).

Tom Hayes was notified that the committee is interested in the FBI presentation about Food Security. He will check on available dates and advise.

10 Year Preservation Plan – committee discussed Sally Birdsall’s proposal. Her quote was the lowest but did not include mapping. Deb and Millard both wondered how important that would be and if it’s required by the state. Eileen said the maps are available online but will check with Katie to see if they’re mandatory in the new plan. Eric Harz said there is no requirement to go with the lowest bidder if the plan doesn’t meet the standard outlined by the state. Committee took no action on accepting either proposal received. Eileen will email both proposals to the membership for review and the committee will take it up again at the September meeting.

Helig and Rizzo properties have settled. Bauman/E. Mihalecz final approval for settlement should have gone through at last state meeting. T. Mihalecz added lot to application. D. Crisanti no updates. Frohlich advised he needs to select his exception area – Eileen has emailed him twice but received no response yet. That information is necessary before the application can be approved by the committee.

JWP Properties – committee discussed adding extra money to the per acre offer using Open Space Funds. Due to an unfortunate set of circumstance, that could not be corrected, the members felt that it was a good use of the money and a fair solution for the property owners. Katie stated previously that we could offer no more then \$700.00/acre. Eileen advised that the money was available. Herb said Upper Pittsgrove does this frequently. Eric Harz said he sees no resistance from the Township Committee. *Motion to approve the additional \$700.00/acre by Herb, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Millard, all in favor.*

8. Correspondence: none

9. Member Comments: none.

10. Public Comments: none

11. Adjournment: 8:06 p.m. – *Motion to adjourn by Heb, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Deb, all in favor.*

**NEXT MEETING IS SEPTEMBER 16, 2020**