



# Township of Pittsgrove

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Agriculture Advisory Committee

Facsimile:  
(856) 358-  
3055

Reorganization/Regular Meeting  
Teleconference Minutes  
January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021

1. Meeting called to order by Secretary Eileen O'Hara at 7:47 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: Deb and Herb Wegner, Ed Myers, Norm Lenchitz, Sean Collins, Katie Mazzella and Eric Harz.
5. **Reorganization Agenda** – Membership & Officer Appointments (Chair & Vice-Chair);
  - a) Millard Paulus
  - b) Herb Wegner
  - c) Roger Ward
  - d) Ed Myers Sr.
  - e) Deb Wegner
  - f) Sean Collins
  - g) Norm Lenchitz

Eileen stated that Millard wants to step down as Chairman and continue as a regular member. Roger spoke to the mayor and wants to continue to serve as an alternate member. Norm has

been appointed to the committee as a regular member replacing Roger who becomes alternate #2.

Deb was nominated to be the new Chair. *Motion to approve by Herb, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Norm, all in favor.*

Herb is happy to continue as Vice-Chair. *Motion to approve by Ed, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Norm, all in favor.*

Approval of the 2021 Ag Advisory Meeting Dates: 3/17, 5/19, 7/21, 9/15, 11/17, 1/19/22 (Reorganization). Committee reviewed. *Motion to approve by Deb, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ed, all in favor.*

**Regular Meeting Agenda** – approval of the November 18, 2020 regular teleconference meeting. Norm noted the minutes state that the Dobson Properties are contiguous. They are contiguous with other preserved farmland but not each other. These lots are on opposite sides of Alvine Road. Eileen will edit the minutes so that fact is clear. With that caveat the committee found them acceptable. *Motion to approve by Ed, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Deb, all in favor.*

6. New Business:

- a) Sally Birdsall sent a memo for committee review. She asked the members to think about what they wanted to see in the new 10-year preservation plan, if anything needed to be revised, added or deleted. Sally plans to attend the March meeting to go over her thoughts and get the committee's input. Eileen said that Steve Bruder, SADC, also wanted to meet with the committee at some point to discuss the new plan. She'll see if he's able to attend the March meeting and if not possibly arrange a date when both will be available.
- b) The Frohlich application was cancelled because he sold the property. The new owner's name is not yet known but we can approach them about the preservation program when the new deed comes through.
- c) Outreach Letter was reviewed by the committee and everyone thought it was fine. They also went over the new targeted farms lists and had no additional changes to suggest.
- d) Dr. Bolnick contacted Katie about preservation. He has about 100 acres of land and the state would preserve as a direct easement. She sent an application but hasn't heard from him.

7. Old Business:

Status of current preservation efforts: Katie

Anne Bauman, Eric Mihalecz – close to closing

JWP – final approval is expected next month

T. Mihalecz – CMV received

D. Crisanti – accepted his offer

Dobson – has 2 application for preservation which he wants to keep separate. He can do this but it doubles the cost because of separate appraisals and surveys. Katie said 1 application is better because it makes a larger farm. Deb stated the purpose of preservation is to have farms that make a living for their owners and she recalled that Cindy Roberts, SADC, disapproved of these splintered applications. Norm, Herb and Ed all remember that Mr. Dobson had applied for preservation before and rejected his offer after the appraisals were completed.

Norm suggested getting money from Mr. Dobson and putting it in an escrow account. If he does go to settlement the money would be refunded to him. And if not, the money could be used to pay for the appraisals. This would avoid the problem encountered before. Katie will look into that and advise. When we have all the information required, Eileen will go to Mr. Dobson with the proposal. Eric thought the Township Committee would be fine with our decision.

Norm did visit the properties after our last meeting. He found a septic system that needs to be filled in, tires, debris, an old coop and wetlands on the southern boundary. One of the parcels was difficult to see entirely because of sticker bushes. Approval, of the Dobson applications, is deferred pending additional information.

8. Correspondence: none

9. Member Comments: none

10. Public Comments: none

11. Adjournment: 8:25 p.m. – *Motion to adjourn by Deb, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Norm, all in favor.*

**NEXT MEETING IS MARCH 17<sup>TH</sup>, 2021**