



# Township of Pittsgrove

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Agriculture Advisory Committee

Facsimile:  
(856) 358-  
3055

Regular Meeting  
Teleconference Minutes  
May 19, 2021

1. Meeting called to order by Chair, Deb Wegner, at 7:37p.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, Norm Lenchitz, Katie Mazzella, Eric Harz, Nick Mesiano and Eileen O'Hara.
5. Approval of the minutes of the March 17, 2021 regular meeting. Deb noted one item to be corrected. With that caveat: *Motion to approve by Norm, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Deb, all in favor.*

New Business:

- a) Sally Birdsall memo of 5/3/21 – Project Areas for Consideration for new Preservation Plan

Committee reviewed Sally's map which shows her proposed target areas for the next plan. Nick Mesiano noted that his neighbors are interested in preservation but are not in our target areas. Committee stated this is also true for the Lorentz and Levin farms. Norm noticed the big addition in the Northwest target area and some tinkering in the Southeast. No one on the committee is in favor of deleting any areas from the plan. There was a discussion about land use, preservation and the historical aspects of farming in Pittsgrove. Nick wondered if the farms near Schalick could be preserved and Katie explained it would be difficult because of the zoning and the possibilities that the high

school, or convenience center, would need to expand in the future. She noted that it's potential business location too.

Katie stated that farms can be added to the targeted farm list we update annually in addition to having Sally include them in the next plan.

Nick will send Eileen a list of interested farmers in his neighborhood.

Eileen thinks Sally will attend the July meeting to go over the committee's likes/dislikes of her proposed plan. Any ideas the committee has can be presented then.

b) Preservation Alert

Committee approved of the alert. Katie suggested leaving it as an open invitation for interested parties to attend any Ag meeting. Everyone agreed and the alert will be posted tomorrow.

c) Applications requested and sent to Sandra Deitrich and Dr. Bob Stephens

Dr. Stephens application has not been returned. Eileen needs to follow up on that.

Norm visited the Deitrich farm and picked up their application. It's about 70 acres on Buck Road with tillable land and woods. They are very interested in preserving their land and willing to do whatever is needed to make it happen. Katie noted it would need to be added to the targeted list and plan and because of its frontage and soils would probably be valued less. It doesn't meet the minimum tillable acreage either. Norm reiterated their willingness to clear what's needed to comply. *With the condition that the Deitrichs clear the land to meet the requirements: Motion to approve by Deb, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Herb, all in favor.*

7. Old Business:

Status of current preservation efforts: Katie

Anne Bauman, Eric Mihalecz – both settle tomorrow.

T. Mihalecz/Crisanti – accepted offers, both need approvals from Kris and then final state approval.

JWP – title work and survey completed.

Dobson – going through the “Greenlight” process.

Burt – meets the tillable requirement per Katie but is also out of the target area. She said it could be done through the New Jersey Conservation which is a non-profit group. They

would fund 50% and Pittsgrove and the county would have to fund the rest, state doesn't participate in this program. With no assurance that the county would share the cost the committee decided to leave the application as is (PIG) and get it added to the target list.

Bolnick – Katie still talking to them about preservation. There are issues that need to be resolved because of the sale of the house.

8. Correspondence: none

9. Member Comments: Norm is happy to have Katie at the meetings; she gives us instant feedback otherwise we'd be flying blind. The entire committee appreciates her knowledge and input.

Eileen told the committee that the municipal building would reopen sometime in early June and wanted to know if they wanted to continue meeting via Zoom or go back to in-person sessions. Everyone is happy to continue with Zoom and have in-person meetings if necessary.

10. Public Comments: Nick wanted to thank everyone for their work in preservation. He and his brother are also working to keep Pittsgrove green and are thinking of ballot, or ordinance measures which would help that happen.

11. Adjournment: 8:50 p.m. – *Motion to adjourn by Norm, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Herb, all in favor.*

**NEXT MEETING IS JULY 21, 2021**