



# Township of Pittsgrove

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Agriculture Advisory Committee

Facsimile:

(856) 358-3055

Regular Meeting  
Teleconference Minutes  
March 16, 2022

1. Meeting called to order by Chair, Deb Wegner, at 7:33p.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 & Herb Wegner Norm Lenchitz, Millard Paulus, Katie Mazzella, Kevin Yeagle, Eric Harz, Emory Dobson and Eileen O'Hara.

Deb addressed the recent loss of Ed Myers Sr.- his dedication and service to the community will be missed.

5. Approval of the minutes of the January 19, 2022 Reorganization Meeting: ***Motion to approve by Norm, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Millard, all in favor.***
6. New Business:
  - a) Economic Development Committee: Norm & Eileen attended their last meeting. They wish to partner with the Ag Committee to attract new businesses to Pittsgrove and promote preservation simultaneously. Their next meeting is 4/6/22, Eileen will send the link so members can attend and discuss their ideas.
  - b) Quote from Sir Speedy for bound copies of the new 10-Year Preservation Plan received and discussed. Deb and Millard would both like hard copies. Eileen will order them. Plan is also on our website for review.

- c) Em & Em Farms – owner Emory Dobson was present to discuss his offer. He believes it's too low and explained why. Norm pointed out he has both an electric easement and wetlands on his properties. Katie discussed how the offer was arrived at and how the program is funded. Eric pointed out that he will still own the land after settlement and can sell the property at market value if he desires. Mr. Dobson was told by the committee that there would be no additional funding from us and why. Mr. Dobson officially declined the offer.
- d) JWP Properties can't continue with their application at this point. Eileen said they have a contract with us to sell the development easement. Because of that we can legally ask them to reimburse us for expenses incurred (appraisals and survey). Committee discussed different options. Katie will talk to Kris Alexander about the contract and get back to us. Decision was tabled until the next meeting.
- e) Pittsgrove Day -5/21/22, Rain Date 5/22/22

Committee wants to participate in this event. Kevin offered to bring his antique tractor to attract people to our booth. Eileen will have information packets about the program. Deb, Herb, Millard, Norm and Eileen will share the staffing duties.

7. Old Business:

Status of current preservation efforts: Katie

T. Mihalecz/D. Crisanti – in closing review, should settle in the next few months.

Burt – final approval in May, doing the title work

Dietrich – Eileen spoke to them and they're negotiating a property sale to meet minimum requirement

Stephens – 1 appraisal completed

Zeck – (Bolnick Farm) at the appraisal stage, direct state easement

8. Correspondence: none

9. Member Comments:

Norm wanted Katie to know how happy the Alloway farmers were with her efforts. He didn't want the members to feel bad about the Dobson application, not everyone works out.

Katie said getting escrow money for appraisals is a possibility for future rejecters.

Eileen brought up the Nemeth property (201/41) about an 80-acre parcel on Harding Highway. The Township Committee is requesting comments from the Ag Committee on supporting a possible preservation application. Members discussed the property - it would require clearing of 25+ acres to meet the minimum tillable requirement. Providing that was done the members agreed that they would be glad to support their application. Eileen will email Conni that information.

10. Public Comments: None.

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

**NEXT MEETING IS MAY 18, 2022**