

SUSSEX COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 21, 2012

The meeting opened at 7:40 p.m. by Chairperson Brodhecker in the Freeholder Meeting Room at the Sussex County Administrative Center, One Spring Street, Newton, New Jersey. The meeting was held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-1 of 1975, as amended. Notice has been forwarded to the newspapers and posted on the bulletin board maintained at the Sussex County Administrative Center for public announcement.

ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jane Brodhecker, Chairperson
Lori Day, Vice Chairperson
Brian Hautau
Jim Hunt
Joan Snook Smith
Peter Southway

MEMBERS EXCUSED: CeCe Pattison

STAFF PRESENT: Donna Traylor, CADB Coordinator
Antoinette Wasiewicz, Recording Secretary
Steve Komar, County Agricultural Agent

ALSO PRESENT: Brian Smith, Esq., SADC
Frank McGovern, Esq., Hampton Township Attorney
Eileen Klose, Hampton Township Administrator
Timothy Dooley, Hampton Township Committeeman
Dan Coranoto, Hampton Township Committeeman

REORGANIZATION:

Donna called for a nomination for the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for the Sussex County Agriculture Development Board.

A motion was made by Jim Hunt to nominate Jane Brodhecker as Chairperson of the SCADB. The motion was seconded by Joan Snook Smith and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Brian Hautau to nominate Lori Day as Vice Chairperson of the SCADB. The motion was seconded by Joan Snook Smith and carried unanimously.

MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:

The Minutes for May, June, July and August 2011 were originally approved in October 2011. It was later discovered the meeting in October was unofficial due to a delay in the reappointment of some Board members. Therefore, these Minutes will be re-approved this evening.

A motion was made by Joan Snook Smith to approve the Minutes of May 16, 2011, as presented. The motion was seconded by Lori Day. All were in favor, with an abstention from Jane Brodhecker and Peter Southway. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Brian Hautau to approve the Minutes of June 20, 2011, as presented. The motion was seconded by Joan Snook Smith. All were in favor, with an abstention from Jane Brodhecker and Peter Southway. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Jim Hunt to approve the Minutes of July 18, 2011, as presented. The motion was seconded by Joan Snook Smith. All were in favor, with abstentions from Jane Brodhecker, Lori Day, Brian Hautau and Peter Southway. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Joan Snook Smith to approve the Minutes of August 15, 2011, as presented. The motion was seconded by Brian Hautau. All were in favor, with an abstention from Peter Southway. Motion carried.

The meetings held in October and November 2011 were unofficial due to a delay in the reappointment of some Board members. Therefore, Summaries for these meetings were prepared rather than Minutes.

A motion was made by Jim Hunt to approve the Summary for the meeting of October 17, 2011, as presented. The motion was seconded by Lori Day. All were in favor, with an abstention from Peter Southway. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Brian Hautau to approve the Summary for the meeting of November 21, 2011, as presented. The motion was seconded by Lori Day. All were in favor, with abstentions from Joan Snook Smith and Peter Southway. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Joan Snook Smith to approve the Minutes of December 19, 2011, as presented. The motion was seconded by Brian Hautau and carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A. BEGINNING FARMERS IN NJ PROJECT, SADC, 1/17/12:

The SADC is working on a new project to enhance leasing resources for New Jersey farmers and landowners and to support beginning farmers' ability to access land. The project is part of a USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program and was funded by a grant from NOFA-NJ. The SADC will be conducting research and developing model land leases and contracts that can be used and/or modified by anyone looking to enter into leases of agricultural land or contracts for farming.

B. GREEN LIGHT APPROVAL, SELLA, SADC, 1/27/12:

A letter was received from the SADC advising that they have reviewed the Sella Farmland Preservation application. The application is complete and accurate and meets their minimum criteria. The SADC Green Light Approval Maps and the Quality Score Report were included. Donna will apply for reimbursement from the State out of the Fiscal Year 2011 funding round for this application.

C. CERTIFICATION OF VALUE, WASHER, 2/1/12:

A signed Final Approval Resolution for the Washer farm has been received from the SADC. This farm closed with County dollars and was sent down for reimbursement. Donna added that County Counsel had to do a corrective Deed regarding a non-ag. use on the farm. The corrective Deed was submitted to the State about three weeks ago.

D. CERTIFICATION OF VALUE, LANE, 2/1/12:

A signed Certification of Development Easement Value Report for the Lane farm has been received from the SADC. This farm was part of the 2011 Funding Round.

E. ELECTRONIC MONITORING FORM, SADC, 2/10/12:

Over the past four months, the SADC has been testing and using a new Electronic Monitoring Form while conducting baselines and annual monitoring visits of State-owned easements. The new form is designed to capture information that is pertinent to the long-term stewardship of farms, as well as landowner eligibility for post-closing related opportunities. The use of this form will also increase consistency and fairness

in the type and detail of information collected during baseline reporting and monitoring visits. Forms submitted through the web-based system will automatically download to the SADC database and will fulfill the requirement for submission of annual monitoring reports. To assist in the introduction of this new process, the SADC has arranged three regional meetings to demonstrate and explain how to use the new form.

F. 2012 OYF NATIONAL AWARD, 2/12/12:

Duce Tallamy received the National Outstanding Young Farmer Award at the National OYF Congress held in Springdale, Arkansas. This is the 4th National OYF in a row for NJ. Sussex County has had three national winners since the first award was presented in 1955, more than any other county in New Jersey.

Also, Raj Sinah, Tore Anderson and Michael Opilla were notified of their nomination for NJ's 2013 OYF award. They were sent blank Nomination forms and were advised that the deadline for returning the completed application is March 21, 2012.

Donna said the Freeholder Board will be presenting Duce with a certificate at their Freeholder Meeting tomorrow.

G. SADC APPRAISER'S CONFERENCE, 2/14/12:

The Annual State Agriculture Development Committee Appraiser's Conference is scheduled for Wednesday, June 6, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. The Conference is being held at The Conference Center at Mercer County Community College in West Windsor, NJ. Appraisers are required to attend one conference every two years in order to remain on the SADC's list of approved appraisers.

H. NJ ANIMAL WASTE MGT. RULE DEADLINE:

The NJ Department of Agriculture adopted regulations in March 2009 that require all livestock farm owners to responsibly manage the manure generated on their operations – including those with horses, dairy cows, cattle, swine, goats, sheep, poultry and all other domesticated species defined as livestock. All New Jersey farmers with livestock are required to be in compliance with the regulations by March 16, 2012.

The Department of Agriculture will investigate alleged violations of the rules and take appropriate action, which may include fines of up to \$1,000 per day for each violation as determined. The Department may allow the owner or operator up to 60 days to address or correct non-compliance before imposing penalties.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension has provided training for livestock farmers since the initiation of the rule back in March 2009. Extension Offices will be available for assistance with compliance questions and will schedule individual meetings as needed.

I. 2012 CONSERVATION INITIATIVES, NRCS:

The Board was provided with a copy of the 2012 Conservation Initiatives from the NRCS. This deals with Organic Farming, Seasonal High Tunnels and Energy Management. Donna said she has extra copies for those who need them.

J. ARTICLES OF INTEREST:

Donna provided the Board with newspaper articles relating to agriculture. The articles covered a number of barn fires; the appointment of Rich Vohden to the Highlands Council; the Green Township Planning Incentive Grant process for Farmland Preservation; Duce Tallamy receiving the New Jersey Outstanding Young Farmer Award (this was prior to his national win;) Andover's one day winter market and the loss of Coster Gerard.

Lori said farmers who own very old barns should check their electrical wiring. They found a number of spots in the old barns on Space Farms where the wiring had been chewed through by rodents. Donna suggested that Lori e-mail Dave Klemm to ask him to send out an e-mail blast to farmers.

RIGHT TO FARM:

None

AG. AGENT'S REPORT:

Steve Komar said the Board members should expect an e-mail survey relating to agritourism and asked them to be sure to respond.

Sussex County is among the top four counties in Jersey for the number of Animal Waste Management Plans that have been written and submitted. However, there are still many that have not yet responded.

Steve said on March 5 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. there will be a pasture program held at his office. The last part of the meeting will be devoted to pesticide safety and participants will receive core credits. There will be another program mid-March which will cover all of the core credits.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. AGRITOURISM UPDATE:

Donna reported that the County did not receive the last Travel and Tourism Grant. There were 90 applications and they were only able to partially support 37 applications. However, they are trying to get on their fiscal year so within the next two to four weeks the next Travel and Tourism Grant Application will come out. Donna

said she will revamp the application based on some suggestions they offered. That Grant will be awarded after July 1 and will run from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013.

Donna said the County received a Phase 1 and Phase 2 grant for the Highlands Commercial Kitchen. The dollars from Phase 2 has been expended. The Highlands is not awarding new grants, however they will extend the Phase 2 Grant. Donna submitted the application for the extension of the Phase 2 Grant requesting additional funding. The Grants Manager estimated that this will go before the Highlands Council at their March meeting. The bulk of the funding that was requested will be for kitchen time. They are also interested in one small piece of equipment for product labeling, specifically for the product line. Donna and Steve would like to work with the farmers to produce a few new value-added products.

Steve said they recently had the Better Process Control School in Burlington County. About 25 people participated. They are considering having the farmers bring up some product from south Jersey to make value-added products at our facility at the Technical School. Donna said she proposed that in her Grant write-up to recognize that there are some products that farmers may not have an ample supply of in North Jersey but the farmers do have the know-how in the kitchen. Steve said he received three calls and two e-mails from people who took the class who are interested in our Commercial Kitchen. They are also interested in creating a Commercial Kitchen at one of their school's kitchen. Donna said that would be helpful for the Highlands Council to know that there may now be another county using the Sussex County's Commercial Kitchen as a template. This would strengthen Sussex County's grant request.

B. EVERETT FARM VIOLATION, FRANKFORD TWP. UPDATE:

On January 25, County Counsel's associate, Bob Campbell sent a letter and the Form of Consent Order to Richard and Elizabeth Everett for their review and execution. The signed form was received at the end of January. They have agreed that the County will do quarterly monitoring of their farm rather than yearly monitoring for the next two years to make sure that they is no further issue with this violation. Donna said she will set up monitoring for the end of April, July, October and January and will send out a letter as the date nears.

C. UPDATE ON CLOSINGS, APPROVALS, SUBMITTALS, BUDGET:

Donna provided the Board members with a chart that shows all the farms that have received final approval from past rounds with monies already encumbered. She reviewed the status of these farms and the monies needed to close on them.

A draft letter to the County Treasurer and Counsel was also provided to the Board. The first page outlines all the monies that are available from ancillary costs reimbursements; the reimbursement to Hampton Township from the Green Tree project; the estimate of the 2011 County Dedicated Tax; the Washer reimbursement; and the grand total for Farmland Preservation.

The second page of this letter outlines farms that have State and County approvals and monies that have been encumbered prior to 2011 from the County dedicated tax and the monies needed for the 2011 County Funding Round.

The third page lists the five Sussex County farms that the Land Conservancy of NJ received money for under the Grants to Non-Profits Program. The Board hopes to partner with the Land Conservancy in the preservation of these farms. The cost to partner with the Land Conservancy at 50% totals \$1,307,742. Donna reminded the Board that some of these figures are confidential.

Donna reported that the three Crisman farms and Manak farm will close soon. She added that the County closed on about 30 farms with only County dollars. Five of those applications were sent to the State for reimbursement. Once the County receives the reimbursement, they become part of the State program and receive the same protections as any other farm that was closed with State dollars. They are also eligible for soil and water conservation cost share funds through the 8-Year Program. The farms that the County preserves do not receive the same protections because they have not received State funding. There is a mechanism under 2:76-619 where the County can submit the County preserved farms to the State and once approved, they would receive the same protections as a State preserved farm.

The meeting was opened to the public for discussion with Brian Smith.

Donna asked about the protections afforded to farms closed with State funds. Mr. Smith said the Eminent Domain protection is the obvious one, but in addition the condemnation protection, a public body can't condemn any portion of a farm unless the Governor declares it is necessary for the public health, safety and welfare. There is a hearing process in which it has to be proven that there is no other alternative to taking the farm.

There are some older provisions from 1983 that are not dealt with that often but they are still there for farms in the State program. When asked about water restrictions, Mr. Smith said State preserved farms may not be subject to State water restrictions. There is also a statute about the limitations of the size of farms buildings.

Donna said the landowners whose farms closed with County dollars were advised at the time of closing that the County may be sending their application to the State for reimbursement and that this would make them part of the State program.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Jim Hunt directing Donna to prepare the paperwork required by the SADC to enroll County held easements for Farmland Preservation into the State Program, with notice going to the landowner prior of what potential benefits and

protections would be. The motion was seconded by Peter Southway carried unanimously. A roll call vote was taken. All were in favor.

Peter Southway confirmed that the Farmland Preservation dedicated tax has been reduced. He asked what would be the process to lobby the Freeholders to consider increasing it. Freeholder Vohden first advised the Board that he is no longer their Freeholder Liaison. He said the Freeholders are finished with the Capitol Projects portion of the budget and that they are almost finished with budget decisions. They are waiting for additional information but said he could guarantee them the dedicated tax is not going to go up. He did say that it will be the last thing they will look at to reduce however.

Peter said he felt we were at a unique time in an economic cycle where landowners are interested in preserving their land because development sale alternatives are not good. Donna said they were going to delay their application process because typically the applications are due the end of March/early April; but this year because they are waiting for one more certification of value from the State, they have not made the final determination for last round with recommendations for final approvals. A delay of two months would give an opportunity to look at the farms that could not be funded last year and do an outreach with the municipalities that are doing Planning Incentive Grants for possible partnerships.

Peter felt if there was a Countywide voter referendum for a dedicated tax for Farmland Preservation, it would succeed. He said there are many people in Sussex County that want to see the land preserved and would be willing to pay for it. Jim and Donna said two years ago the State question did not pass in Sussex County. Donna said last year the County Open Space Program only had one application to 17 farmland preservation applications.

D. MONITORING UPDATE:

Donna said she has been taking advantage of the snowless days by doing the monitoring. She said she has already monitored about 81-82 farms. By the time she is finished, it will be time to start all over again. It is the County's obligation to monitor the farms on a yearly basis, as is to handle Right to Farm issues.

The meeting was closed to the public.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. DRAFT AMP FOR ON-FARM DIRECT MARKETING FACILITIES, ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS, PRESENTATION, BRIAN SMITH, SADC:

The Board was provided with a copy of the Working Draft of the On-Farm Direct Marketing AMP prior to this meeting. They were asked to prepare comments and/or questions for Brian Smith, Esq., SADC. Mr. Smith handed out copies of a Power Point

Presentation that Susan Payne introduced at the State Ag. Convention a few weeks ago. This presentation is being taken to any County that wants a presentation made to it. Mr. Smith said a good number of County Agriculture Boards want to hear about this AMP.

Mr. Smith said work on this AMP began in April 2010 with members of the farming community and people from State government. They read 19 studies that were done by Rutgers and the Department of Ag. in the 1990s and early 2000s. The SADC has a mandate to protect farmers, advance agritourism and the agricultural business climate in the State but they also represent the public. They walk a fine line in balancing the interests that are presented by the Right to Farm Act. Mr. Smith said they started off dealing with farm markets but then realized that agritourism is more than just the farm markets, it's more than just the building, it's the activities and events.

The first part of the AMP is a definition of terms. The last few pages are an omnibus approach to things that apply to all aspects of agritourism, such as sanitary facilities, signage, hours of operation, etc. Mr. Smith said he visited many farms during this process and the biggest complaint from Sussex County men and women was signs. The towns do not like signs. Signs were addressed in a fair manner in the AMP, being mindful that signs are necessary to bring people to the farmstand and is important to agritourism. By the same token they do not want NJ to turn into PA with sign pollution.

Lori Day noted that on Page 1(b) examples of unprocessed agricultural output does not include livestock. She felt this should be included.

Mr. Smith took note of her suggestion and added that all comments should be submitted to the SADC in writing by April 15. The want to hear from the CADBs, the public and the municipalities

"Products that contribute to farm income" is within the Farm Markets definition in the Right to Farm Act. Mr. Smith said based on studies that have been done in the past, especially by Burlington County, they broke out products that contribute to farm income by complementary and supplementary products. The complementary/supplementary split is the reality of the kind of products that farm markets typically have in their stores. A complementary item would be bottle openers or corkscrews at a winery. Supplementary products would be a freezer case that has some orange juice, bottles of water, eggs, milk from other farms.

Mr. Smith said what will probably generate the most comment is Municipal Site Plan Review. The Right to Farm Act in no place says that a Farm Market must abide by site plan requirements. The SADC recognized the fact that towns do have parking standards and on-farm direct marketing facilities must comply with parking standards that the municipality has. However, if the parking standard for a municipality says that parking lots have to have Belgian Block curbing, something completely unrelated to public health and safety, the farmer is not going to have to install Belgian Block curbing in his parking lot. If a town had such a requirement, the SADC would expect

the farmer to go before the CADB and say he wants relief based on this AMP. In this example, Belgian Block curbing is more than the minimum necessary to protect public health and safety. When asked who makes the determination of what is unreasonable, Mr. Smith said the CADB does.

Mr. Coronato, Hampton Township asked if the meeting could be opened to the public. Mr. Smith suggested he run through the presentation first. Chairwoman Brodhecker said she would wait until the public session.

The SADC prepared a chart regarding the level of review based on the size of the facility. 80% of the farm markets they inspected were less than 5,000 sq. ft.---some of them were on wheels, such as hay wagon displays/sales. When the facility gets bigger, they know there will be traffic impacts and potential safety problems. For this reason, facilities 500 to 5,000 sq. ft. will need minor site plan review and facilities over 5,000 sq. ft. are subject to the town's requirements. Mr. Smith said if the farmers market is a building and there is a tent, the tent is a covered facility and it counts towards the 5,000 sq. ft. There was some discussion about temporary, seasonal tents. Mr. Smith said that is an issue and that the SADC is still working on it.

Mr. Smith said the section dealing with general parking areas would be in effect if the town does not have their own parking area standards or their parking area standards are too onerous. The farmer can go the CADB to show what he is providing. If it is still safe, the CADB will have to decide whether the farmer is adequately protecting the public health and safety.

All activities and events have to be related to marketing the farm's output. If there is a soybean field and a corn maze and they are not selling any product, the corn maze as a recreational activity is not going to be protected by the Right to Farm Act because it is not related to the agricultural output. Lori said at the end of the year the corn is harvested and the farmer sells the corn. She asked if that would apply. Mr. Smith said the test is going to be whether that recreational activity is related to the marketing of the agricultural output of that farm. Mr. Southway clarified that if a farmer put five acres of corn in next to an apple orchard and had a corn maze as part of a pick-your-own operation, it is covered under the Right to Farm Act. Mr. Smith said that was correct.

Mr. Smith asked if there were any questions from the Board. Peter Southway said he did not see the issue of food safety and food preparation addressed in the AMP. Mr. Smith said it is not addressed in any detail but generally to get Right to Farm Protection, the farmer needs to be in compliance with State and Federal law. There are State laws that address food handling. He pointed out that on Page 19, the SADC lists some of the State laws and regulations that farmers will still need to comply with in order to get Right to Farm protection.

There was additional discussion on animal vaccinations, signage, screening and activity attendants. Donna asked the Board to review the Draft AMP and send her

their comments. She will distribute them to the Board members for discussion at the next meeting. Mr. Smith said after collecting all of the comments the Agritourism Committee will reconvene to revise the AMP.

B. TENNESSEE GAS PIPELINE – INFORMATION AS IT PERTAINS TO SUSSEX COUNTY PRESERVED FARMS:

Donna said the Tennessee Gas Pipeline is running through Sussex County and into Passaic and Bergen Counties. The State had a meeting last week which Donna attended with Brian Smith, Tim Brill, four representatives from Tennessee Gas Pipeline, two of their attorneys and a representative of the CADB from Bergen and Passaic County. Most of the impact to preserved farms will be in Sussex County. There are four preserved farms that Tennessee Gas Pipeline will impact. Three of the farms have existing easements which Donna confirmed with maps. If Tennessee Gas gets their approval from FERC to proceed with this process, they will be impacting four Sussex County preserved farms. Two of the farms were preserved with State dollars, the Shafer farm in Montague Township and the Gebhart farm in Wantage Township. The other two farms were preserved with a County easement, the Caton farms and the Deckertown farms both in Wantage Township.

In the mid 1950s a 24" pipeline was sunk for Tennessee Gas in a specified or non-specified right-of-way. Tennessee Gas is doing a looping project now and will be installing a 36" pipeline that will be adjacent to the older pipeline approximately 25' away. In the spring of 2010 they did a pre-application process with FERC and in March 2011 they filed their formal application. In November 2011 FERC issued a final environmental approval. Tennessee Gas is awaiting FERC's final certificate. They plan to start construction between October and November. Their tree cutting process has to be done by March. By April of next year the linear construction will begin and by November of next year they will be in service. Donna believes the eastern portion of this pipeline has already been completed. This impacted one of the County's preserved farms (Hamming in Wantage Twp.) and the County did not receive notice of the work. Donna said on the Shafer farm there is no existing easement. Tennessee Gas will have to condemn the land. When it was mentioned that the Right to Farm Act protects landowners from condemnation, Donna said that FERC does not work under the State process.

The meeting was opened to the public.

Donna asked how the Right to Farm Act works in relation to the Tennessee Pipeline. Mr. Smith said Section 25 only applies to public bodies. He said that Tennessee Pipeline does not consider itself a public utility. They are purveyors or a utility that provides the utility for use by the consumer. Even if they were a public body or a public utility under the State Law, their authority is drawn from Federal law, so they are claiming that their Federal Law pre-empts whatever the State law is. They get a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from FERC.

Donna said the Shafer farm is next to Federal lands. She suggested that the pipeline go 1,200 feet to where it is not a preserved farm or Federal land. Tennessee Gas said it is more politically correct to go through a preserved farm than through privately held land. Donna pointed out the layout of the pipeline on a map and described the process. She said they will pay the landowner for damages, which is an issue. There is also an issue with payment to the landowner for condemnation. Mr. Smith said the condemnation award to the landowner is multiplied by the fraction (in paragraph 23 of the Deed of Easement.) The fraction is multiplied by the condemnation awarded. The result of that multiplication is an amount of money that the County gets. The second operation is that the County's cut is in turn divided with the State based on respective cost share grants in the original deal. Donna said at the meeting she learned that Tennessee Gas has been working with the Shafer's since October 2011 and that they've done appraisals of the property and a survey. He may be anticipating that he is going to be getting money back. Tennessee Gas acknowledged their omission with work done on the Hamming farm.

Donna said that the easements for the gas pipeline prohibit trees or buildings. Therefore, an orchard or Christmas tree farm would not be allowed. The Deed of Easement says the land is to be available for agricultural use. She added that it could be three years before the landowner would have full use of the property.

Mr. Smith said there will be a condemnation on the Shafer farm. Mr. Shafer, Sussex County and the State will be defendants on that condemnation case. Donna said that County Counsel has been trying to reach the attorney for Tennessee Gas. Peter felt the landowner should be aware of his obligations to the County on various issues.

C. RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR TRI-FARMS GREENHOUSE REQUEST:

Donna prepared the Resolution for the establishment of a Greenhouse operation at Tri-Farms. She read the Resolution to the members and Mr. Smith.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Joan Snook Smith to approve the Resolution of Support for the Greenhouse operation at Tri-Farms. The motion was seconded by Lori Day. A roll call vote was taken. All were in favor.

The meeting was opened to the public to discuss the Tennessee Gas Pipeline with Brian Smith who needed to leave the meeting shortly.

Freeholder Vohden talked about fees charged to lease property for linear development and power lines. He asked if the State could claim that preserved farms are State properties and would require the leasing fees. Brian Smith said the fact that it is State property is a legal issue that they are investigating. The FERC law applicable to electric utilities says that they cannot take property that the State has an interest in. Unfortunately, the Natural Gas Act does not have that prohibition.

The meeting was closed to the public.

D. COMMON WATERS APPLICATION FOR JORRITSMA:

New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania have been working together over the last few years to find ways to protect watershed, agricultural and recreational lands and forests. The Common Waters Committee was able to get some funding and are working to do forest management plans. Some of the funds will be used for implementation. The Wallkill Watershed has identified some properties in Sussex County that may be appropriate for some of this money for forest stewardship. One such area is down the Paulinskill which runs through the Jorritsma Farm. They are proposing in the application to do plantings on both sides of the stream bank. They will stay out of the agricultural area. They are looking at 50-75' on either side but that boundary may change depending on if the Jorritsma's are using part of the area.

The issue is that the application was due to Common Waters at the beginning of February. We are still waiting for the certification on this farm and the offer to be made for Farmland Preservation. They don't yet know if the Jorritsma's will be accepting the offer. However they have stated that Farmland Preservation is their priority.

Donna met with Eric Olsen, Nature Conservancy who is one of the key parties with Common Waters and Nathaniel Sajdak of the Wallkill Watershed Group to work on the application. They sent Donna a copy of the finished application and it has been submitted to Common Waters. Donna said she checked with County Counsel and basically what they are doing is similar to many of the NRCS or USDA programs, such as CRP or EQUIP. It will not have restrictions any more onerous than that. Counsel felt based on that description that it would not be in conflict with Farmland Preservation.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

All business having been completed, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Lori Day. The motion was seconded by Brian Hautau and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.