

**Minutes
Hope Township
Agricultural Advisory Committee
Wednesday August 5, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman, Bob May.

Open Public Meetings Act:

Under the provisions of the “Open Public Meetings Act” adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by publishing notice in the legal section of the Express Times and by posting notice in the Hope Post Office and on the Township bulletin boards—all prior to July 26, 2015.

Present at this meeting were members: Bob May, Richard Goodbody and Josh Miller. Also in attendance was Sandy Uργο of the Land Conservancy of New Jersey.

- The minutes from the last meeting, June 3, 2015 were approved on a motion by Bob May that was seconded by Josh Miller.

Old Business:

- Ms Uργο confirmed that the application for preservation of the 172 acre property known as “Campbell Foundry” has been given approval by the SADC and she provided hypothetical Pre-Highland, and actual current appraisals. The Land Conservancy will present the appraisals to the SADC for approval. With that approval anticipated, Committee approved the following motion to the Hope Township Committee:

To authorize the Land Conservancy to offer the owners of “Campbell Foundry” for a development easement on the property, contingent on receipt of certification by the SADC, in the amount of \$2000 per acre. And upon authorization, to develop a contract for review and approval by the municipal attorney.

This motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Chairman May, and approved by the Committee.

- Approximately 60% of the funds for this preservation effort will be provided by the Hope Township PIG, 20% from the Hope Township Farmland Preservation Trust Fund and 20% from the Warren County Farmland Preservation Trust Fund.

Correspondence:

- Correspondence was noted about a particular preservation application that straddled two municipalities and a questionable right-of-way address.
- The Warren County Department of Land Preservation has been selected as a recipient of a 2015 New Jersey Planning Officials’ Achievement in Planning Award for the preservation of Beaver Brook Farm. This farm resides in Hope Township, and its preservation is testament to the efforts of The Land Conservancy and Ms. Uργο.

Update on Farmland Preservation Efforts:

- Ms. Uργο told of her efforts to contact various farm owners in Hope, and she and the Committee spent some time reviewing a number of potential properties that could be targeted for farmland preservation.
- Ms. Uργο revealed a new property owner’s interest in preservation and though the property was outside of Planning Area 2. She remarked that with an increase of tillable average, the application seems tenable- especially as it adjoins a preserved farm.

- It was noted that Farmland Preservation signs have been installed at two locations on Swayze Mill Road.

New Business:

- None.

Adjournment:

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 8:12 PM following a motion by Josh Miller that was seconded by Richard Goodbody.

Respectfully Submitted,
Richard Goodbody
Secretary