Howell Township Farmers Advisory Committee Board Meeting

Date: February 22, 2018

Place: Howell Municipal Bldg.

Quorum Attendees:
Elaine Taylor, Susie Robacker, Terry Van Ness, Grace Lowry, Mary Ann Cernak (via teleconference)

Guests: David Kelly; Patricia Isbrecht; Joan Obsborne

Meeting Minutes

- Roll Call/Quorum established.
- Review of Minutes January Meeting. Meeting minutes were approved for the January 2018.
- The Farmers Advisory Committee members meet monthly so as to support Howell Townships Master Plan Use Element objectives associated with the sustainment and preservation of township agriculture, through our “application” analysis and “ordinance” review, so as to sustain suitable conditions for the continued operation and maintenance of “ARE” type acreage.
- Committee reviewed all draft ordinances and applications in the plat box, provided by Eileen Rubano, Administrative Officer, Planning and Zoning Boards, Howell Township.
- Howell Family Apartments development was discussed. Per Joan Osborne, the developer is not working to protect the interest of the farms in the area. Per Patricia Isbrecht, she has approached the Council many times to provide protective barriers to protect her horses adjacent to the property. She was told that any suggestion of by her would not be entertained. Patricia wanted a 50’ buffer or a 15’ mound. She was told that the new zoning given to the developer would not allow these types of barriers.
- Old Business:
  - Farmers Market
    The Farmer’s Advisory Committee is still discussing the start-up of a farmer’s market in town. Grace said there is a possibility of using the township building’s parking lot as a place to hold the market. The Farmer’s Advisory Committee chairperson has prepared an outline to review a possible program. The talking points included location possibilities, timing, costs, advertising and sponsors. Per Grace, she suggested the Brick market might be something to look at thought the fees are expensive. Elaine is going to again pursue trying to get the approval and support of the council. Elaine and Grace will attend the next council meeting.
Joe Tates did attend the meeting to discuss the possibility of moving forward with a farmers market. Days of the week were discussed and Saturday or Sunday were discussed as the best days. This discussion will be continued.

- Meet & Greet Membership Drive
  Discussion on this topic was tabled until the next meeting. The committee plans to discuss ideas on how to get people out – possible seed exchange.

- Review of Applications
- General discussion
- Next meeting: March 22, 2018
- Adjournment: 10:00pm

Review of Applications

1. BA18-02 Roofing Business Storage – Robert & Delores Kowalski – No Comment. This is a request for continued use with existing structures. Note: There is no 50’ buffer is shown on the plans along the bordering farm but all structures are existing.
2. BA 18-06 – L & L Paving – No Comment.
4. BA17-08 – Rt. 9 Hardscape Supply Yard, LLC – The property borders a Q farm (Lot 114) and no 50’ buffer is shown on any plans submitted.
5. BA18-03 – Clearview Equities, LLC – No Comment.
6. SP-805A2-F – MGD Holdings HOW, LLC – No Comment.
7. BA18-04 – Sean & Christina Connelly – No Comment. Plans do show 50-60’ buffer around the entire property.
8. SP-960R – United Advertising Corporation – No Comment.
9. BA10-17SP-A2 – Townhomes @ Eagle Oaks – No Comment. 50’ conservation easement is shown on the plans.
10. SP-1042 – 999 Route 33, LLC – Need to include 50’ buffer at the property line that borders the Q farm. None is shown on the plans.