COLTS NECK FARMLAND PRESERVATION AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2025

Call to Order – the Colts Neck Farmland Preservation and Open Space Committee and Agricultural Advisory Sub-committee meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

There was a salute to the Flag. The Sunshine Law Notice was read.

A roll call occurred for the Farmland and Open Space committee. The meeting was attended by: Chair Jena Cosimo, Committeewoman Sue Fitzpatrick, Kevin O'Connor, Scott Britton, Dina Ryan, Jonathon Fabozzi and Alison DeNoia, Tom Morin, Kevin Casey and Dennis Kendall (alternate).

Absent: Michael Stivala, Theresa Velardi (alternate).

A roll call occurred for the Agricultural Advisory Sub-committee. The meeting was attended by: Jena Cosimo and Tom Morin.

Absent: Michael Stivala

Jena Cosimo made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2025, meeting. Kevin O'Connor seconded. All were in favor. The minutes were adopted as submitted.

<u>Old Business</u>

Green Acres Updates –Green Acres is accepting applications due early next year for a new funding round.

REPI/NWSE Updates – Partners closed on an 84-acre REPI conservation easement on Creamery Road. Additional Colts Neck properties are now being explored for the program. Outreach is continually occurring, and conversations are ongoing with eligible properties and partners are working with the landowners to navigate the preliminary complexities of the projects. Many targeted sites also appear on the priority farms list

Farmland Preservation Updates - While no properties are currently under preservation agreements, Colts Neck has SADC funds available for future projects. The township is updating its full municipal farmland preservation plan, which is required every 10 years. The draft plan will go before the township committee for adoption in 2026.

Outreach continues to occur to target farms, though landowner interest remains low as development offers prove more financially attractive

CADB Report - Mr. Morin shared an update from the last CADB meeting. There was a discussion at the CADB meeting about ongoing conversations related to a farm in Colts Neck needing approval from the County for certain activities that are occurring on the farm.

Liaison Report – Committeewoman Fitzpatrick provided updates on affordable housing compliance, including the status of developer applications filed with the state for two Colts Neck properties. Separately, the town is considering a referendum on the ballot next year to ask voters for an increase the open space tax rate

New Business – The annual SADC update was explained, and the target farms were reviewed. No new additions have been made to the target farms list for the annual update. Ms. Cosimo made a motion to recommend that the township committee pass a resolution supporting the submission of the 2027 SADC Annual PIG Funding Round Update. Mr. Morin seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Comments from the Public

Ms. Cosimo made a motion to open the meeting to public comment. Mr. Morin seconded the motion. All were in favor, none were opposed. The meeting was opened to public comment.

There was no public comment.

Ms. Cosimo made a motion to close the meeting to public comment. Mr. O'Connor seconded the motion. All were in favor, none were opposed. The meeting was closed to public comment.

The next Farmland and Open Space Committee Meeting and Agricultural Advisory sub-committee meeting will be held in January of 2026.

Ms. Cosimo made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. O'Connor made a motion to adjourn the meeting. All were in favor, none were opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ms. Cosimo.