

Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2025

Call to Order – the Colts Neck Farmland Preservation and Open Space Committee and Agricultural Advisory Sub-committee meeting was called to order at 7:37 p.m.

There was a salute to the Flag and 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

Absent: Michael Stivala, Kevin Casey, Theresa Velardi

A roll call occurred for the Farmland and Open Space committee. The meeting was attended by: Jena Cosimo, Tom Morin

Absent: Michael Stivala

Alison DeNoia and Dina Ryan were sworn in by Committeewoman Fitzpatrick as members of the Farmland and Open Space Committee. Jena Cosimo and Tom Morin were sworn in by Sue Fitzpatrick as members of the Agricultural Advisory Sub-committee.

Alison DeNoia made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 11, 2024, meeting. Jena Cosimo seconded. All were in favor. Tom Morin abstained since he was absent at the November 11th meeting. The minutes were adopted as submitted.

<u>Old Business</u>

Green Acres Updates - Colts Neck does not have any current Green Acres projects.

REPI/NWSE Updates – An additional $3 million dollars were allocated to a Multi-Year Agreement between Monmouth Conservation Foundation, Monmouth County and NWS Earle/Navy through the REPI program for easement purchases to protect lands surrounding NWS Earle and prevent incompatible land uses. This funding can be used to purchase development easements on land within the immediate vicinity of the installation. A current project is underway within Colts Neck. Partners are seeking to purchase a development easement on roughly 80 acres of undeveloped

land. This will restrict future development. Partners are Monmouth Conservation Foundation, Monmouth County, and Colts Neck. Subsequent projects within Colts Neck through this program are being explored.

Farmland Preservation Updates - There are no active farmland projects. Colts Neck has SADC funds available. Landowner outreach to farms listed on the target farms list continues to occur.

CADB Report- Tom Morin provided a CADB report. He noted that the SADC has a newly created Next Generation Farmer program. This program offers resources for new farmers.

Liaison Report – Committeewoamn Fitzpatrick discussed stewardship of existing open spaces within town, clean-ups on these areas and getting the community involved. There was a discussion about exploring the opportunity for a forest stewardship plan, which would in essence be an inventory of existing forested lands and make suggestions on how to appropriately manage said lands based on their inherent natural resources.

Committeewoman Fitpatrick noted that there is a planning board meeting tomorrow evening and affordable housing will be discussed.

Comments from the Public

Ms. Cosimo made a motion to open the meeting to public comment. Ms. DeNoia 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. Ms. DeNoia 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 May of 2025.

Ms. Cosimo made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. DeNoia seconded the motion. All were in favor, none were opposed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ms. Cosimo.