COLTS NECK FARMLAND PRESERVATION
AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2024

Call to Order – the meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m.

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

A roll call occurred. The meeting was attended by: Chair Jena Cosimo, Committeewoman Sue Fitzpatrick, Kevin O'Connor, Scott Britton, Dina Ryan, Jonathon Fabozzi, Kevin Casey and Alison DeNoia

Absent: Tom Morin, Michael Stivala

Ms. Cosimo made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 13, 2024, meeting. Mr. O'Connor seconded. The minutes were adopted as submitted.

Old Business

Farmland Preservation – There are no active farmland projects. Colts Neck has SADC funds available. The 2025 SADC annual planning incentive grant application/update was shared with the committee for review and approval. It was noted that this update is required annually for Colts Neck to be eligible for funding through the farmland preservation program. There was a brief discussion about the update – potential eligible farms targets can be added or removed if they are lost to development. Ms. Cosimo made a motion to submit the 2025 SADC annual planning incentive grant update to the SADC. Ms. DeNoia seconded the motion. All were in favor. None were opposed.

Green Acres – Colts Neck does not have any current Green Acres projects. Funding applications are due for additional Green Acres grant funding in March of 2025.

REPI/NWSE – Naval Weapons Station Earle requested additional funds through the Department of Defense REPI program to preserve additional projects through this program. Funding is anticipated to be announced later this year.

A large parcel on Creamery Road is actively moving through the preservation process. A draft survey has been received and an updated appraisal is underway. Additional parcels to preserve through this program are being explored and conversations are occurring with landowners.

CADB Report – There was no update.

Open Space & Farmland Tax Increase – It was noted that the town elected not to place a referendum on the ballot asking voters to increase the farmland and open space tax collected since Monmouth County reported they planned to have a similar referendum on the ballot. Monmouth County, at the last minute chose not to have a referendum. It is unknown at this time if the governing body will consider a ballot measure for next year's election.

2025 Meeting Schedule – The proposed 2025 meeting schedule was shared with the committee. There were no objections to the schedule.

Comments from the Public

Mr. O'Connor 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 in attendance.

Ms. Cosimo made a motion to close the meeting to public comment. Ms. Ryan 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 will be held in 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 8:02 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Ms. Cosimo.