

Solebury Farm Committee
November 26, 2024
Hybrid Meeting

Minutes

In attendance: Graham Phillips, Gary Manoff, Kaitlin Farbotnik, Josh Perlsweig, Buz Teacher, Tim Luccaro, Hanna Howe (Supervisor Liaison), Terry Clemons (Solicitor) & Renee Scally (Administrator)

Absent: Lowie Comly and Lars Crooks

I. Call to order

Graham Phillips called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm

II. Approval of Minutes

Gary Manoff made a motion to approve the minutes, 2nd by Tim Luccaro, all in favor.

III. Announcements

None

IV. Agricultural Ordinance Accessory Uses – update

Discussion about the concerns of Fire & Safety annual inspections, farms should be exempt. Wondering why the staff of the township cannot do these inspections.

Discussion of zoning for accessory uses.

Upon a motion by Graham Phillips, seconded by Kaitlin Farbotnik, it was unanimously agreed to move forward with the original draft that was sent to the Board of Supervisors and reject any changes that were made.

Graham Phillips will move forward with meeting with 2 (two) Board of Supervisors and 2 (two) Farm Committee members to discuss the ordinance.

V. Farm Workers Housing Ordinance, part 1 (Residential Accessory Dwelling)

Discussion between committee members. Terry Clemons will work on suggestions for the next meeting.

VI. Administrative Business

a. Sustainability Sub-Committee – no updates

b. Comprehensive Plan Committee

96% of the residents who took the survey are in favor of farms. The next phase will be starting soon.

VII. Forum for Farmers/Landowners

The committee wants to wait until the ordinance is approved. Will start the planning process no later than April 2025. The committee mentioned getting this announced in the Messenger and throughout social media.

Another suggestion is to offer a Solebury Township Farm tour – which can highlight the farm and their operations.

VIII. Committee Member Comment

Kailin Farbotnik wanted the Farm Committee to know that there is confusion among the USDA slaughterhouses. Different things are being said and no one knows if this is correct or not. Spoke to a PA Senator and said these rumors are not true (slaughterhouses cutting back from 2-3x week to 1x week), but appointments are being cancelled. Small farms do not have the infrastructure to take animals to farther slaughterhouses, plus they need refrigeration.

Josh Perlsweig suggests having a Board of Supervisor reach out to the State Representative to look into this. At least 3 farms are impacted.

The committee thanked Buz Teacher for volunteering on the Farm Committee

IX. Public Comment

Stephen Phillips does not understand why farms need a permit; he thought everything was good from the last meeting. Suggests to the committee to send the original draft of the ordinance to the Board of Supervisors. met with the zoning officer along with Brent Alderfer to talk about fire safety. The committee needs to be specific about fire safety.

Brent Alderfer did not understand why the notice to the township (1-2 weeks prior to the special event) and the township has the right to inspect was not approved, because the zoning officer was ok with this. He also agrees with the committee to send the Board of Supervisors the original ordinances without the proposed changes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm by Graham Phillips, 2nd by Josh Perlsweig

Respectfully Submitted,
Renee Scally