MINUTES
Bernards Township Agricultural Advisory Committee

Monday, Nov 21, 2016 at 7:00 PM

Attendees:
Committee: Carol English  Local Farmers:  Pat Black
Mariellen Keefe  Ellen Pinson
Thomas Russo  Jim Miliotto
Catherine Sorge
BT Planner:  David Schley

BUSINESS:
- Discussion on Township Ordinances that impact farm operations with David Schley
  o Right to Farm protects commercial farms on planning and construction issues as well as complaints
    ▪ Cathy mentioned the county is also a resource to help with interpretations and legal rights of farmers when faced with conflict at the local level
    ▪ Committee discussed the need to educate those with farming operations in the Township about the breadth of the Right to Farm protections
    ▪ David mentioned that Township officers participate in periodic county sponsored meetings to keep up with regulations related to farms even though they have not needed to act on Right to Farm issues
  o Tree removal ordinance impacts those with > 3 acres
    ▪ Question was raised on need for permit to remove trees on farms, David mentioned farms with a Forest Management Plan are allowed tree removal without additional permits. The BT ordinance regulated residential property greater than 3 acres
    ▪ Committee will review the Ordinance – Chapter 16
  o Construction on Farms
    ▪ There is state legislation that establishes the criteria for development fees.
      • Township adopted the fee and therefore the criteria established by the State
      • These fees apply to property owners who build homes on their farms
      • Committee will review the Ordinance – 21.86
    ▪ State construction legislation requires dry wells to manage runoff that is related to increasing impervious coverage of 1000 sq ft or greater
      • Township has requirements more stringent than the state
      • Dry wells will be required for the construction of out buildings on farms that meet the requirements of the ordinance
      • Cathy will review this issue with the County

INFORMATIONAL:
- No topics were discussed

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.