

**Readington Township
Agricultural Land Advisory Committee Meeting Approved Minutes
September 18, 2024**

OPEN MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dunn at 6:00 p.m. stating that the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act have been met and that this meeting had been duly advertised.

Members in Attendance

Ryan Dunn - Chair
Clay Mason
Jon Kowal
Julie Allen
Robert Becker (EC Chair)

Members Absent

Clay Mason
Kevin Dunn
Jergen Huelsebusch

Minutes

It was moved and seconded, to approve the minutes from the June 19, 2024, meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Review Project Summary List

The Project Summary List was reviewed and discussed regarding opportunities to work with Farmland Preservation planning incentive grants with the State Agricultural Development Committee (SADC), Hunterdon County, and local resources.

Old Business

The team refined a list of farms in Readington to send outbound mailing to in an effort to raise awareness of Farmland Preservation and to reconnect with the Readington Agricultural Advisory Committee members.

New Business

New business featured Robert Becker from the Readington Environmental Commission visit to discuss risk ratings for working lands in Readington due to climate change. The Agricultural Committee discussed and aligned risk ratings on a scale of 1 to 5 as follows: Increased temperature impact (3), Drought (4), Flooding (2), and Severe Weather (2).

New Business (continued)

Additional new business was discussed. The ordinance being considered by the Township Committee to amend as well as supplement portions of the land use ordinance found in chapter 148 permitting up to two detached single-family dwellings on lots with an appropriate lot size in the SRR, AR, and RR Zones. The Agricultural Advisory Committee recommendation is to exclude AR from the ordinance. Excluding AR avoids the unintended consequence of harming farmland preservation efforts. Removing AR from the ordinance still does not prevent citizens on AR land to pursue second residences since there is a process to do that in place today. Excluding AR helps give the Agricultural Land Committee more time to think about long term strategies that are similar in aim to this ordinance but more incentivizing to Farmland Preservation efforts. We would like to have more discussions on this topic in 2025 and/or 2026.

Public Comment

None.

Adjournment

It was the consensus of the commission members to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ryan Dunn

Chair of Readington Township Agriculture Land Advisory Committee