

THE COUNTY OF CHESTER

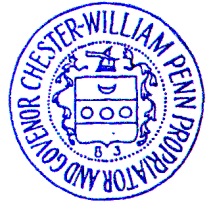


COMMISSIONERS

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AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
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MINUTES: Regular Monthly Meeting
Chester County Agricultural Development Council
May 5, 2021

Zoom Audio/Video

Persons Present via ZOOM: ADC Members: Chris Alonzo, Chair; Deirdre Flemming, Vice Chair; Dr. Barbara Dallap-Schaer; Tim Ferris; Jodi Gauker; Adam Mowery; Cynthia Petrone-Hudock; Anthony Vietri; Gary Westlake and Staff: Brian O’Leary; Wes Bruckno; Ann Lane; Suzanne Wozniak.

Absent Notified: Aimee Bowers; Bill Schick
Guest: Miranda Harple

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m.

Ms. Lane introduced new Council members Cynthia Petrone-Hudock and Tim Ferris. Members of the Agricultural Development Council introduced themselves and welcomed the new members.

2. **Updates, New Business, Other Business:**

Ms. Lane updated the Council on the status of the Ag Economic Strategic Plan. The steering committee met on April 27, 2021 and will meet again on the fourth Tuesday of each month.

ADC staff and the consultants recently toured farms in the county and the consultants will be scheduling additional interviews.

Mr. O’Leary discussed the progress of the municipal farm audit survey – The intent of the survey is to send out to municipalities to try and understand their view of Agriculture community. Ms. Krummrich is working to draft a new version of survey and plans to distribute once it is completed.

Ms. Lane reported that the Commissioner kick-off/start of the Ag Economic Strategic Plan outreach campaign will be held May 11, 2021 at Herban Farms.

Mr. O’Leary spoke about the current Recovery Act Funding program which helps businesses cover costs of reduced revenue and assist to recover from the pandemic. The application period is approaching and guidelines should be defined as to how this program may be helpful to the agriculture community.

Ms. Lane reported on communications and outreach. The new edition of the Farm Guide will be available late May or early June.

Staff plans to use a portion of print budget funds to organize a mass postcard mailing. These postcards will provide information guiding the audience to resources on the ADC website.

The Chester County Commissioners and the Chester County Agricultural Development Council present annual awards, Farmer of the Year and Distinguished Agricultural Service. The Farmer of the Year award recognizes a farmer, farm family, partnership, etc., who maintains and exemplifies outstanding farming practices. Staff from ADC and Chester County Open Space and Preservation have begun work on the annual awards program and identifying a recipient.

Ms. Lane requested nominations for the Duncan Allison Award for Distinguished Agricultural Service, named after a former long-serving and incredibly dedicated board member, honors an individual(s) who has positively promoted, made significant contributions to, or provided exceptional services for the Chester County agricultural community.

Staff are planning the annual tour with the Chester County Commissioners.

The next Farm and Table Tales event will feature Lundale Farm on June 2, 2021 and will be hosted by the Chester County library.

Mr. Bruckno discussed the 247 review for a final land development plan in Elk Township. The proposed plan is approximately one million square feet of space for mushroom houses. The Planning Commission reviewed the plan but has not endorsed the project until it is submitted to Elk Township.

Mr. Bruckno discussed a recent project looking at how well municipalities encourage agricultural activities and regulations. Further analysis will be completed and reported at a future meeting.

3. Administrative Items:

A motion to approve the March 3, 2021 meeting minutes was made by Ms. Gauker, seconded by Mr. Mowery and approved by the Council.

4. Next Meeting – September 1, 2021 beginning at 9:30 am via Zoom.

Ms. Petrone-Hudock mentioned an upcoming educational event, Hemp Field Day will be held on August 14, 2021 at Stroud Water Research Center.

Ms. Gauker mentioned that Lundale Farms will be hosting an online viewing of Farmers for America at the end of June 2021.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:44 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hillary Krummrich/Ann Lane
Secretary

HK/AL/sw

Note: Complete reports are a part of the Agricultural Development Council files and can be reviewed at the Planning Commission Office.