

Minutes Monmouth County Board of Agriculture  
May 18, 2010

In attendance were: Gary DeFelice Frank Allocco, Donna Puhalski, Jesse Puhalski, Erin Mariolis, Bill Sciarappa, Rich Obal, Timothy Dey, Bill Potter, Wickie Hom, Marty Bullock, David Holmes, Boots Cassie, Diane Zahorsky, Macy Compton, Sabrina Brown, Ed Wengryn, S P Dey, Jim Wikoff, Robin Bruins, Debi Kauffman, Angelo Trapani, Anne Trapani, Bill Walker, and Ross Clayton

Visitor: George Aspercolas

The meeting was called to order at 7:54 following a presentation on estate planning by Klatzkin and Co.

Bill Potter gave the invocation.

Marty Bullock moved to accept the minutes from the previous meeting, with the addition that Frank Allocco was present. Dr. Dey seconded the motion that passed.

Ross Clayton reported a balance of \$9772.65 as of 5/18/10. Our money market has \$13,062.53. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by S. P. Dey and seconded by Bill Potter. The motion carried.

Correspondence:

1. A letter from Annette Devitt, Salem County 4-H Agent requesting a donation for the state 4-H Dairy, Goat, Rabbit and Small Animal shows was presented. Dr. Dey moved to send \$500, a gold clover sponsorship to benefit the state shows. The motion was seconded by Debi Kaufman. The motion carried.
2. Stars and Stripes Livestock Show sent a letter requesting support for their show at the Horse Park of NJ during Freedom Fest State Show. Jim Wikoff moved to donate \$1000, the amount sent in previous years. Seconded by Dr. Dey, the motion passed.
3. The Ag Museum has requested aid to meet their annual budget of \$300,000. Their recent plant sale netted approximately \$15,000. Several other benefits are planned, including a Blue Grass festival in Ewing and an early June benefit at the Santon Grange. Plans to meet their needs include a reduction of staff and programs. Gary spoke on the value that his own children had enjoyed from Museum programs. We were urged to contact our legislators to support the restoration of funds to the Museum.
4. Rachel Tansey from the Dept. of Community Health Sciences requested \$1000 for bags for the fair. Gary will contact her to see how we can work together.

Dr. Dey moved that our board send letters asking for the restoration of the \$70,000 needed in order to keep the Museum open. The motion which passed was seconded by Jim Wikoff.

Reports:

1. Rich Obal commented on the recent frost and warm weather that has put vegetable, grain and straw ahead of schedule. Senior Program Coordinator is

open in Mercer County Extension. This position will also benefit our county with commercial calls.

- June 8 Christmas Tree growers Twilight meeting at Yuletide in New Egypt at John Perry's Farm.
  - Sabrina Brown was welcomed as the new Monmouth County 4-H Assistant. The search for a new 4-H agent continues.
    - \* The cloggers and some other 4-Hers, including the 4-H Ambassador, will attend the Strawberry Festival.
2. Bill Sciarappa reported that \$600,000 has been deleted from the budget for the Snyder Farm. Some staff will remain. More cash crops and less research plots will be planned. Medical marijuana will not be featured due to high security needs.
    - At the NJ Vegetable Growers meeting, a cut of \$400,000 to Rarrick was noted affecting South Jersey and three other stations.
    - A holistic grant featuring work in childhood obesity has been granted
    - \$30,000 for ag bio energy will feature switch-grass production
    - An herbicide testing grant will feature a new material for switch-grass
    - Wine research if finding that soon our Bordeaux will be comparable to European wine
    - 200 attended Rain garden training. Our goal is 1000.
  3. Dr. Dey reported on the last Cook Graduation.
  4. A new grant writing team will seek several million dollars for urban and peri-urban marketing, which may include Freehold.
  5. Macy reported that new leaders have received training. The 4-H office is busy. Food donations will be accepted at the gate during the Monmouth County Fair.
  6. Diane reported on the plant sale that saw many county folks out to purchase from this major fundraiser. The Jr. Master Gardeners have received many requests. Master gardeners will be at the Strawberry Festival and Freedom Fest.
  7. Bill Walker
    - July 10 Blue Grass in Ewing
    - Mon. Co. Vocational celebrated their Golf Hole last Thursday. These students are competitive and have secured donations from industry for their projects.
    - 35 NJ Charlie Brown restaurants will feature Jersey Fresh side dishes.
    - CH Robson, one of the largest vegetable producers in the US is using Jersey Fresh this year.
    - The DEP and Ag will have a unified theme for tourism this year.
    - The Dept. of Ag is hopeful that the budget will meet their needs this year.
  8. Ed Wengryn
    - Monmouth Co. has no one on the budget committee. You can email Ed your thoughts on line items.

- Contact **Senator Joe Kyrillos**, to urge not taking all funds away from line items
- Ed will work with us on the Dual Appraisal Process.
- Drivers License for 16 year olds may be ready before summer recess.
- Energy cooperatives bill- ie. wind/solar will probably feature help for large units, not the smaller that we had hoped for.
- If you like dollar dogs, plan on attending the Trenton Thunder Ag Night (**near the end of**) on Aug. 24. Groups such as 4H can make money on this to raise funds for their causes.
- June 12 Annual Spring Garden Tour at Mill Hill Neighborhood off Market and S. Broad, near the Dept. Trent House will be open.
- Farm Market season is open
- Marriott will feature local produce
- Let Ed know if a community wants a farm market
- July 10 Taste the fruits of Barnegat Light to benefit the Ag Leadership Class

9. Timothy Dey – USDA FSA

- 2008 SURE disaster program applications still being accepted.
- The 2009 SURE program may start sometime in the fall.
- TAP Tree Assistance Program will address plant loss ie. berries, shrubs, fruit trees – for removal, prep of ground and replacement
- 2010 DCP contracts – due June 1
- Crop reports are due before July 15th
- Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) now includes any crop and many facilities, coolers but not the refrigeration units.
- COC Election will be in December; nominations will be accepted June 15 for Middlesex and Northern Monmouth Co.

New Business:

1. Jim Wikoff moved to extend the funds to a total of \$1500 for items for the Monmouth Co. Fair. The motion was seconded by Dr. Dey and it carried. Donna has a source for cloth bags at 98 cents each printed. Gary will email the information
2. Fair Committee – Nyna has resigned as chair, due to being the 4-H Fair chair this year. Robin agreed to fill this position. Bill Walker has some give-aways for us. We need more room, there will not be a gazebo this year. FSA has pamphlets, tattoos, rulers and the vegetable growers have “Fresh Man” coloring books. Bill suggested that we coordinate with 4-H.
3. Gary brought up the fact that the handling of some of the Board’s business has become a hardship on Terry in the Ag. Extension Office, such as mailing out the minutes and meeting notices. Robin suggested that we use email rather

than mailing meeting notices, with one at the beginning of the year with all proposed meeting mailed. Vivian will put on line when she receives the information. We will revisit this in Sept. Debi suggested that minutes should be sent to those who attend meetings.

4. Sabrina suggested having jr. members from the FFA and 4-H. This met with an extended welcome to all.
5. Strawberry Festival – we have a 30 x 40 foot tent area beginning on Wed. May 25<sup>th</sup>. Doug Tilton will have tractors.
6. Scholarship – two filled out – one is currently missing, therefore we will evaluate and if all is valid, give two scholarships. Ross will contact the student with the missing application.

Jim Wikoff moved to accept the decision of the Scholarship committee. The motion was seconded by Dr. Dey and approved.

Dr. Dey moved to adjourn. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Bruins