

Monmouth County Board of Agriculture
October 15, 2013 Minutes

In attendance were: Pat Butch, Rieks and Robin Bruins, Bill Carney, Nick DeMaurro, Gary DeFelice, Denise Emmons, Bill Sciarappa, Renee Stillwell, Angelo and Anna Trapani, Bill Walker and Ed Wengryn.

The meeting was called to order by Angelo Trapani at 7:43 PM. Robin Bruins gave the invocation. Corrections to the minutes were read and the corrected minutes were approved following a motion made by Gary DeFelice which was seconded by Anna Trapani. Gary DeFelice presented the Treasurer's Report which highlighted a balance in checking of \$4,447.34 and \$5,234.37 in the money market account. Rieks Bruins moved to accept the report. The motion was seconded by Anna Trapani and passed.

Reports

FFA – Renee Stillwell from Allentown High School FFA reported that 186 students attended the State Leadership conference, 28 of whom were from Allentown. They will be busy on Sunday, October 20th helping serve at the Hope Fire Company's turkey dinner. Freehold FFA members were present at the Open Space Pace. The National Convention is coming up. Four AHS members will represent us there.

Monmouth Co. Extension – Bill Sciarappa attended the National Agent's Conference in Pittsburg. He benefited from the networking and thanked the board for their financial support. Bill received a national award for his work in Colts Neck. The Open Space Pace raised \$16,000 for charities. Attendance at the event was good and a number of county ag groups were on hand. A marine rain garden project has received a great deal of press and interest.

Department of Ag

Bill Walker will investigate the status of Monmouth County's availability to house and care for animals during an emergency. Other counties have CARTs. Dr. Sara Ralston did have a booth at the Monmouth Co. Fair regarding this matter. Bill informed us of a Somerset County Vocational Ag teacher who is meeting with school staff and legislators regarding the declining number and caliber of ag students on Thursday. This case may become a template for other programs.

Farm Bureau

Ed Wengryn will send packets prior to the convention. Key issues will be beekeeping, ag education, Farm to School expanded policy with master gardeners working with students, farm preservation and open space funding. Our nomination of Stuart Faunce as an alternate delegate to the NJFB Convention was not acceptable because there is no provision for student participation. During the federal shut down, any storm damage to farms should be certified by the county ag agent. The House passed the Farm Bill but it is not expected to be passed by the Senate until after the election. We are now operating under the sequestered % of the farm bill.

Farm Bureau Woman's Committee

Anna Trapani thanked the board for the donation to the Harvest Drive.

Board of Managers

No report

New Business

Pat Butch moved to submit the three fairs as county ag fairs. Gary DeFelice seconded the motion which passed. Robin Bruins will contact the Monmouth County Fair committee for a letter requesting ag fair status. For 2014, these letters must be submitted by October 1st. Mr. DeMaurro was asked to submit an amended letter requesting ag fair status omitting the reference to Stars and Stripes involvement in Freedom Fest State Fair.

Our annual dinner will be held on February 27, 2014 at the American Hotel. The fee is \$40/person for either sit down or buffet, tax and tip is included. Robin Bruins should send a save the date to all legislators after elections.

Last month, we nominated Stuart Fiance as our Young Farmers and Ranchers county representative. Robin Bruins moved that Bill Carney will serve as the Nominating Committee to find an alternate. Pat Butch seconded the motion which passed. Rick Stern, Randy Gravatt and George Digregorio were selected as our nominees for the 2015 Outstanding Young Farmer. We received the entry form and information from the Department of Agriculture. More than one candidate may be submitted.

Gary DeFelice moved to adjourn at 9:25. Rieks Bruins seconded the motion which passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Bruins