

Monmouth County Board of Agriculture  
September 16, 2014  
Minutes

Attendance: Sabrina Brown, Rieks and Robin Bruins, Marty Bullock, Pat Butch, Bill Carney, Ross Clayton, Gary DeFelice, FFA Representatives, Wickie Hom, Randy Peck, Bill Potter, Bill Sciarappa, Angelo and Anna Trapani, Bill Walker, Ed Wengryn, Meg Whitehouse, and Jim Wikoff.

President Angelo Trapani opened the meeting at 7:45 following a tree planting ceremony to celebrate the Hundredth Anniversary of Rutgers University. Gary DeFelice reported \$8906.74 in our checking account and \$6562.63 in our money market. Anna Trapani moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. This motion was seconded by Jim Wikoff and passed. Meg Whitehouse moved to accept the Secretary's Minutes as read. The motion that was seconded by Randy Peck, carried.

#### FFA

Allentown rated #1 in the state. Two teams will attend nationals. Renee Stillwell reported that \$2803 was earned at the fair on the vegetable sale. She thanked us for the support that we gave. Rutgers, Mercer and SUNY now have agreements with Allentown to accept credits.

#### Farm Bureau

Ed spoke about the use of social media to gather promotional ideas on the ballot question. The ballot question allocates a percentage of corporate business tax to be dedicated to environmental programs such as preservation. There will be a kickoff in Newark tomorrow on preserving waterfront lands. They anticipate low voter turnout. Send Ed an email if you are interested in a poster for the "Keep It Green" campaign or can post information on your face book page. He noted that farmers are the most respected body according to a recent poll. For the second year, we are the first county to meet our quota, thanks in part to the FFA members. The Farm Bureau is working with Fish and Wildlife to increase the harvest of turkeys. Farm Bureau is recommending \$1/member donation to be sent to Farm Bureau to support preservation. Farm Bureau is seeking agribusinesses to help in raising at least \$30,000.

#### Dept. of Ag

The vegetable growers may have a problem finding a venue for their meeting. An issue was brought to the board's attention that health inspectors are holding farmers markets to restaurant standards, such as "no dogs allowed". This concern will be brought to the Farm Bureau's Resolution Committee for consideration at the Convention.

#### Extension

Basil International Workshop is set for Atlantic City. Bill will be at Rutgers on Thursday to discuss Global Warming and unstable weather patterns such as this past year – the slowest for insects and disease. The Open Space Pace is scheduled for September 20th.

#### 4-H

All clubs are expanding. The new shooting club is looking for a co-leader. Sabrina noted that the county board is the glue that holds us all together.

#### State Board of Ag

Marty reported that there is a new evasive weed in Burlington County.

#### Coop

Tri County Coop has increased sales 25% from 2013. Thursday auction begins at 6:00.

#### Board of Managers

A weed specialist is the next to be hired. Pat submitted a report on other developments.

MCBA Sept. 16, 2014 Minutes continued

Farm Bureau Woman's Committee

Anna reported that they have requested \$250 for their Heritage Drive, the same as 2013. Robin Bruins moved to donate \$250, seconded by Jim Wikoff, the motion was approved.

Direct Marketing

Meeting will be at 4 Sisters Winery this week.

Young Farmers and Ranchers

A motion to appoint Grayson Asprocolas as our alternate was made by Anna Trapani. The motion was seconded by Pat Butch and passed.

Old Business

State delegates were discussed. Will be named at Annual Meeting.

New Business

Monmouth County's Farm Bureau Convention delegates – Angelo Trapani, Jim Wikoff, Pat Butch, Randy Peck and Gary DeFelice. Alternates are Anna Trapani, Robin Bruins, George Asprocolas, Dave Homes and Bill Potter.

A review of the budget indicates that we have spent \$11,87.51 of the \$13,605. With \$1517 remaining, we need to fundraise if we want to increase our budget or we can live within our budget as is. Jim Wikoff moved that the Board donate \$1/member to Farm Bureau to support preservation (this is approximately \$800). Pat Butch seconded the motion which was approved. Anna Trapani moved to approve all three fairs. Pat Butch seconded the motion which passed.

Pat Butch, Gary DeFelice and Bill Carney will be at the Open Space Pace.

Anna Trapani moved to send a letter of support for Grown in Monmouth. Pat Butch seconded the motion which carried.

A motion to donate \$250 to Mykala Terrill for 4-H National Congress was made by Jim Wikoff since her house was destroyed by fire. Seconded by Robin Bruins, this motion was approved.

Anna Trapani moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:10. This motion was seconded by Randy Peck.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robin Bruins