

Monmouth County Board of Agriculture  
Minutes February 19, 2013

The meeting was called to order by President Angelo Trapani at 7:30 PM. John Neyhart, Gina Wojtowicz, George Asprocolas, Meg Whitehouse, Macy Compton, Rieks Bruins, Anna Trapani, Ed Wengryn, Boots Cassie, Speety Cassie, Bill Potter, Wickie Horn, Marty Bullock, Viro Cardinale, Bill Walker, Stacy Brody, Nyna McKittrick, Gary DeFelice, Pat Butch, Angelo Trapani and Robin Bruins were in attendance.

Anna Trapani moved to accept the minutes. Bill Potter seconded the motion which was approved.

As of January 15<sup>th</sup>, our checking account balance was \$4856.07. The Money Market has \$7129.61 in it. The Treasurer's Report was approved after a motion by Meg Whitehouse that was seconded by Pat Butch.

Thank you notes were received from the North East Association of County Agricultural Agents for our \$1000 sponsorship of their national conference and the NJ Farm Bureau Women's Committee for the \$250 contribution to their Harvest Drive.

We received a request for a donation from the Professional Allied Green Council. This group works with the Farm Bureau to prevent pesticide bans. Marty Bullock moved to donate \$125 to the Council. The motion was seconded by Anna Trapani and passed.

The NJ Farmers' Direct Marketing Association requested that we join their organization which supports Farm Markets. A motion to join and give \$150 was made by George Asprocolas, seconded by Marty Bullock and approved. George Asprocolas will represent us as a delegate. Angelo Trapani will act as the alternate.

The Atlantic County Board of Agriculture President, Judee DeFiccio sent a sample letter to us that was sent to encourage past members to renew their Farm Bureau membership. We could use this sample to encourage past Monmouth County members to renew their membership. Gary DeFelice heads the membership committee and welcomes others to join his efforts.

#### FFA

John Neyhart reminded us that this is National FFA Week. Many activities are planned including the visit to the statehouse and the reading of a proclamation. One of the high notes was a Dakota chapter who raised money to purchase computers for FFA members who lost their homes in Sandy. A committee was formed to work with John to create a summit to recruit and retain Agricultural Educators. This board and the Secretary of Agriculture will be essential in getting school administrators to attend. These administrators should be informed of the contribution that students of Vocational Agriculture can make to society. Charleston Springs Golf course has offered to host part of the tour to highlight the technology required in today's agriculture. Salem County recently hosted a showcase tour, successfully informing administrators of the importance of a strong Agricultural Education program.

#### Department of Ag

Bill Walker surveyed the board members about conducting the Vegetable and Ag Conventions concurrently. The response was positive but a suggestion to have fair ambassadors provide direction was suggested. Bill can assist in applying for USDA Specialty Grants.

#### State Board of Ag

Marty Bullock requested convention speaker suggestions. The Millionaire's Tax on the additional 8% tax on farmland with a "livable structure" was discussed.

#### Farm Bureau

Increasing membership methods include reminding all FFA seniors of their free membership option. A letter from the Atlantic Co. Board of Ag encouraging membership renewal was presented. Our strength is in numbers, which are down by 118 in Monmouth County even though farm numbers increased from 890 registered in the 2002 Ag Census to 932 current farmers. Gary DeFelice has formed a committee to address this.

Minimum wage and immigration reform are currently state and federal issues. Farmland assessment goes to the Senate and will probably increase income requirement to \$1000 in 2015.

Senate hearings will be held on a 5 cent/1000 gal. water tax, 2 year \$100,000 bond and dedication of 200 million for preservation. The Ag Driver's license bill is ready for a vote.

Increasing membership may require a better education of associate members to make them feel included.

#### Farm Bureau Women's Committee

No report

#### 4-H

Macy Compton relayed thanks from Mr. and Mrs. Todd for the welcome that they received from our board at the convention where their son Joshua represented Monmouth County. Teen Council seedling sale orders are being taken. "Soil to Spoon" is a program created by a 4-Her to create a Keensburg school garden. Upcoming events include: March 9 Equine Nutrition and tack swap, April 6 Small Animal Show in Belmar, and Monmouth Livestock demo at Thompson Parkl. Results from the 4-H Horse Bowl were presented.

#### Tri County

The Annual Meeting will be held Saturday. George Asprocolas reported that 4 interviews are scheduled for the manager position.

#### Board of Managers

Meeting is scheduled for 2/28/13.

#### Old Business

Lillian Berry will receive the Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award at the dinner. Bill Walker suggested that FFA members include information on the technical lessons that they are learning which will make them ready for an ever increasingly changing industry. John will also get the Paul Harvey "Farmer" tape.

#### New Business

Nyan Mckittrick moved to authorize Anna Trapani to purchase bags for the fairs. Bill Potter seconded the motion which was approved.

Anna moved to adjourn, seconded by Bill. Motion passed at 9:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robin Bruins

Monmouth County Board of Agriculture  
Minutes March 19, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 by President Angelo Trapani. A motion to accept the minutes of the February meeting was made by Marty Bullock and seconded by Ross Clayton. The motion carried. Gary DeFelice reported a balance of \$8,240.10. Angelo Trapani, Pat Butch, Gary DeFelice, George Asprocolas, Marty Bullock, Rieks Bruins, Wickie Hom, John Neyhart, Bill Sciarappa, Ed Wengryn, and Bill Walker were in attendance.

#### Reports

Ed Wengryn reported on the current question about the use of farrowing crates. NJ has a humane treatment of Farm Animals Standard so call your legislator and encourage "allowing the use of the current standard". The \$1 million should remain in the new budget as an allocation for the Ag Experimental Stations.

Bill Walker from Department of Ag updated our board on the Jersey Fresh campaign and Jersey Grown qualifications. He reported that most NJ counties were affected by Sandy and that several Tuckerton operations were wiped out.

Direct Marketing will meet March 20 at the Middlesex Co. office.

The State Board of Ag will conduct an open meeting at the Snyder Farm March 27.

Monmouth Co. Extension Agent, Bill Sciarappa thanked the board for inviting him to our annual dinner. There were 140 at the Central Jersey Vegetable meeting. Open Space Pace, an agricultural fair will be held September 21, 2013. Bill discussed the plan to get a full time coordinator to help with ornamentals. Diane spoke about the browning of White Pines due to Sandy's salt. Our office has been helping Ocean county ag office.

John Neyhart thanked us for a great dinner. He has put feelers out regarding the Mon. Co. Agriculture Education Tour. Robin, George, Pat and Stacy offered to serve on the committee with John. The Superintendent of Mon. Co. school suggested a Fall tour. Two Mon. Co. FFA members are running for state office.

FFA members invited us to their spaghetti dinner April 6 at the Hope Fire Company. \$10 brings you limitless pasta. Donations for door prizes are needed. A 5k is also planned for March 23, 2013.

George Asprocolas reported that the Coop will have a Spring Clean up on April 12 and 13. A consignment auction is planned for April 27, 2013 for nursery stock, bedding stock and equipment. Every Wednesday in May will feature nursery and bedding stock sales.

Due to the lack of agents, research will have to connect to the field, reported Pat Butch regarding a meeting with Dr. Katz. She stated that the next position filled will be the 4-H agent. Dr. Katz committed one farm agent and one 4-H agent for each county.

#### Old Business

Robin Bruins moved to have Meg Whitehouse represent us on the search committee for the 4-H agent. Marty Bullock seconded the motion which passed.

#### New Business

Farm Bureau sent a letter on our behalf with an invoice to members who have not renewed their membership. Phone calls will be the next move. Angelo requested that farm bureau membership information be included in "Changing Times" and to Open Space.

Gary Defelice and Pat Butch will work on a new member directory.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 after a motion by Gary DeFelice and a second by Pat Butch.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Robin Bruins

## April 16, 2013 Monmouth County Board of Ag Minutes

George Asprocolas, Pat Butch, Marty Bullock, Rieks Bruins, Robin Bruins, Hope Cahill, Bill Carney, Ross Clayton, Gary DeFelice, Pat DePalma, Stuart T. Faunce, Dave Holmes, Wickie Hom, Debi Kauffman, Doug Kauffman, Diane Larson, Nyn McKittrick, John Neyhart Randy Peck, Bill Potter, Bill Sciarappa, Anna Trapani, Angelo Trapani, Bill Walker, Ed Wengryn, Jim Wikoff, and Meg Whitehouse were in attendance.

Marty Bullock moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ross Clayton and passed. Bill Potter moved to accept the Treasurer's report. The balance as of 4/16/13 was \$6343.34. Seconded by Anna Trapani, the motion carried.

There was no correspondence.

### Reports:

Mon. Co. Extension – Bill Sciarappa reported that 35 people attended the department meeting. DEP proposed increasing the regulations on pesticide licensing such as photo identification but extension decided to continue to follow previous educational guidelines. The search for a new 4-H agent is now in an external phase. Rutgers Day will be held on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Insufficient water promises to be an issue this summer with possible irrigation restrictions on homeowners. Farm internships have been secured so that 16 can get commercial experience.

Diane Larson's Master Gardening program will conduct a plant sale May 17 and 18. This year, the Mon. Co. Fair theme will be "Restore the Shore". There is a new magazine "Coastal Monmouth" which features ag projects in our county.

Board of Ag – Bill Walker reported that the Asian Longhorn Beetle no longer poses a threat. School lunch and breakfast programs have been highlighted recently. 150 farm market managers will meet tomorrow at the Eco Complex.

FFA – Adopt a Road will be coordinated by members on April 24. Career Development competitions will be held this Thursday. Stuart Fuance reported that \$10 raffle tickets for the 1979 Real Horse Lawn Tractor with pull package are still available. Hope Cahill announced that the State FFA convention will be held at Rutgers May 21 – 23. FFA is collecting gift cards for Sandy victims.

State Board –The Open meeting in Pittstown featured some equine people who were not in favor of the promotional board proposal. Marty Bullock reported that the Outstanding Young Farmer will occur in Cherry Hill. Minimum wage, GMO labeling, permanent Open Space funding and a definition of "local" produce were topics.

Farm Bureau –A Memorandum of Agreement draft was presented by Gary DeFelice for our review after it was presented at the Board of Directors meeting. Angelo was also provided a copy of the MOA by e-mail from the Farmhouse. The SADC has offered to meet with any county board to present rule changes in two stages. The comment period has not yet begun. The Senate has compromised on the farm labor bill which will offer a three year visa for any worker. GMO bill is in committee. Both sides of the aisle have asked for funding for Rutgers. Minimum wage issue will be placed before the voters in November. It does not include an ag deduction.

Coop – First direct sales will begin on May 1<sup>st</sup>, George Asprocolas announced. The new Coop manager is Bill Day.

Ag Development Board – Bill Potter said that there are many issues, one being with a winery in Little Silver, which is seeking a 'Site Specific AMP'.

Board of Managers – We should express our needs as production farmers to Pat Butch so that she can present them to the Board of Managers to ensure production needs are met. Much of the current focus is on nutrition and urban ag. The Vice Chair of the Board of Governors was not aware of the drastic ag cut since 2008 nor the scope of NJ Agriculture that needs to be serviced. Wildlife Specialist, Nursery/fertility Specialist, Fruit/Wine Specialist and Gloucester Ag Agent and Monmouth County 4-H Agent will be the next positions filled not necessarily in that order.

#### New Business

Paul Gleitz with Mon. Co. Parks expressed his interest in having a farmer sell produce in the ag tent. Since an interested farmer has not been found, FFA may sell during the fair. George Asprocolas suggested a coupon discount on the admission ticket if the holder buys. The consensus was that flowers would be better received than produce. John Neyhart will coordinate if a grower is not found in two weeks.

Anna Trapani reported that all 10 bag sponsors will be back at \$125 each. They will be given first chance as the farmer selling at the fair. John Neyhart requested putting FFA/Ag Education on the bags. Nyna McKittrick moved to put the FFA emblem on the bags. The motion which passed was seconded by George Asprocolas.

Nyna McKittrick updated our board on the Leadership Development activities at Burlington Co. College. She thanked us for our financial support. Nyna McKittrick expressed her concern over changes which may require farm markets wishing to increase in size to acquire town site plan approval. New set back requirements may affect farmers causing them to lose farmland assessment. Nyna suggested that we write a letter to the State Board of Ag and the SDAC. Since the comment period has not yet begun, Marty Bullock suggested that we hold off on the letter until a speaker from the SADC can present the proposed changes. Pat Butch will schedule this meeting for our next meeting date, if possible. Bill Sciarappa will announce the meeting in the newsletter.

After Gary DeFelice presented the draft of the Farm Bureau Memorandum of Agreement, discussion concluded that comments should be emailed to Gary regarding the draft. Jim Wikoff moved to table the matter, seconded by Meg Whitehouse. The motion to table carried.

Since there was no old business, Bill Potter moved to adjourn. The motion seconded by Jim Wikoff carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:00.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Robin Bruins

The Monmouth County Board of Agriculture  
May 21, 2013 Minutes

Jeffrey Everett, Chief of Ag Resources, Farmland Preservation Program presented information from his department. Created to protect land and farmers in all fifty states, this program gives guidance to agricultural markets such as parking, set-backs for structures and appropriate activities. Mr. Everett encouraged us to contact him at PO Box 330, Trenton, NJ 08625-0330 or 609-984-2504.

In attendance: Marty Bullock, Pat Butch, Rieks Bruins, Robin Bruins, Bill Carney, Ross Clayton, Laura Coorz, Gary DeFelice, Pat DePalma, Dave Holmes, Wickie Hom, Debi Kauffman, Doug Kauffman, Joe Lacava, William McCornall, Hugh McKittrick, Nyna McKittrick, Andy Miller, Julie Miller, Tom Orgo, Randy Peck, Rick Pier, Kate Halka-Posten, Elaine Taylor, Ed Wengryn, and Frank Wu.

Our meeting was called to order at 9:00 PM by Pat Butch. Marty Bullock moved to accept the minutes as corrected. Gary DeFelice seconded the motion which passed.

Gary DeFelice presented the treasurer's report which notes a current balance of \$7063.38 in checking and \$7131.43 in our money market. Nyna McKittrick moved to accept, Rieks Bruins seconded the motion which passed.

#### Monmouth County Extension

Bill Sciarappa reported that production agriculture has been noted as critical to the future of agriculture in the strategic plan. Bill requested impute from us regarding our concerns. More than \$50,000 has been allocated to Rutgers University from the Vegetable Growers Ass. for a Horticultural and entomologist specialist, IPM Staff and light traps. Our donation in support of the Galazy meeting was appreciated. The Master Gardener plant sale was successful. Once again the vegetable growers and departments of agriculture will partner in January at the State convention.

#### State Board of Agriculture

Marty Bullock reported that when the board meets tomorrow topics to be discussed include immigration reform and defining "locally grown". Hugh McKittrick mentioned that the Home Baked Goods bill passed the Assembly and goes to the Senate tomorrow. The Obama administration may begin sending money overseas rather than food which will affect our industry.

#### Department of Ag

Ed Wengryn encouraged us to contact our legislators regarding Open Space Funding which is currently not in next year's budget. We met our quota. New membership brochures are available.

#### Board of Managers

Chet Holka will represent us on the search committee. The Advocacy and Budget Committee will identify what we accomplished in 2013 and assess the needs with a survey.

#### Farm Bureau

Gary DeFelice reported that the Farm Bureau wants to update and formalize a legal tie between each county board and their organization using a Memorandum of Agreement. We are a 501 C5 organization. After discussion, a motion to table was defeated 3 to 4. Marty Bullock moved to sign the agreement. Seconded by Dave Holmes, the motion passed, with 2 opposed, 3 abstaining and 4 in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Bruins

Monmouth County Board of Agriculture  
Minutes for September 17, 2013

In attendance: Marty Bullock, Pat Butch, Rieks Bruins, Robin Bruins, Ross Clayton, Gary DeFelice, Pat DePalma, Hugh McKittrick, Nyna McKittrick, Bill Potter, Randy Peck, Angelo Trapani, Anna Trapani, Meg Whitehouse, Bill Carney, Stuart Faunce, Bill Walker and Ed Wengryn.

The first meeting of the Board year was called to order by President Angelo Trapani at 7:43 PM. Following the invocation by Bill Potter, the minutes of the May meeting were corrected. Anna Trapani moved to accept the minutes as corrected. The motion was seconded by Rieks Bruins and passed.

*Committee Reports*

**State Board of Agriculture**

Hugh McKittrick reported that the State Ag Convention will be held February 4 through 6. Hugh is the chair and informed us that the line item for the convention has been cut by the governor. He suggested that a summertime fair at Monmouth Park might be a good alternative. The bill for open space was knocked down but funds are being sought. At issue is that they may be unconstitutional since not all would be dedicated to agriculture. Another issue is the definition and labeling of "local". Currently, it is "everything in NJ and within 30 miles of the border. Hugh finished by thanking the board for scholarships awarded to his son and informed us of his son's new job serving our county at the Snyder Farm.

**Department of Agriculture**

Current legislation on Enterprise Zones must be passed by the legislature. It is designed to permit approximately 150 farms to conduct ag activities which had been questioned in the past. The bill is A4034.

**Cooperative Extension**

Meg Whitehouse reported that the search committee has narrowed the candidate list to three. A decision should be made by December which promises to serve the county well.

**FFA**

Some of our FFA members were absent this evening because of Back to School Night. Bill Carney thanked the board for their support during the fair. The FFA chapters made \$2500. Plans are being made for 2014 including a bigger sign recognizing the farmers who donated. Stuart will be attending the National Convention as State Parliamentarian. He thanked the Board for our help which is fostering a 40% increase in FFA members. Dr. Fitzpatrick from Allentown HS and Al Murray from D of Ag will receive Honorary American Farmer degrees.

**Farm Bureau**

Ed Wengryn brought fact sheets and membership forms. The Annual meeting will be held Nov. 18 and 19. Policy development will meet Oct. 7, 2013. Contact Angelo with policy ideas. Ed informed us that Farm Bureau has a new website with special member log-in access to publications. They are offering cds to county boards. Current issues include: forest stewardship, gestation crates, beekeeping as right to farm, microbrewery, immigration, the farm bill/nutrition title, and a proposed game of chance featuring previously run horse races.

**Farm Bureau Woman's Committee**

Anna requested \$250 for the annual Harvest Drive. They plan to donate \$1000 to each county's food banks. Marty Bullock made the motion to give \$250 to the Women's committee. It was seconded by Ross Clayton and passed.

**Monmouth Co. Fair**

Anna thanked Randy Peck for the strawberry plugs which Gary DeFelice planted for us to give away at the fair. Our tent was very well received. For 2014, Anna requested money for wood so that the Parks System can make signs.

## **Monmouth Co. Agricultural Development Board**

Bill Potter reported that the decision regarding wine tasting at NJ wineries will be made in October.

### **Coop**

Andy quit.

### **Farm Service Agency**

Report was given by Angelo. It is available at [www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov)

### **Ag Assistance Programs**

Conservation payments such as energy efficiency, manure management, forest management, irrigation and pest control will be made available to farms which have been eliminated from other programs.

### **Board of Managers**

Pat Butch reviewed the survey and recorded comments on all questions. Please contact her with your thoughts soon so that she can complete the report before 9/30. A nursery specialist will be hired this spring. Money is being sought for a Mercer Co. agent, Aquaculture Specialist and Warren Co. Agent.

### **New Business**

A committee for Young Farmers and Ranchers was formed at the Burlington Co. Tractor Pull last month. Anna Trapani nominated Stuart Fuanca as the Outstanding Young Farmer. The motion was seconded by Nyna McKittrick and passed. Other nominations for this position must be active Farm Bureau members 18 to 35 years old and can be made at our next meeting. The motion was tabled.

### **Farm Bureau Directors**

Pat Butch nominated Gary DeFelice and Angelo Trapani. It was seconded by Anna Trapani and passed.

### **Delegates to the Farm Bureau Convention**

Selected were: Pat Butch, Gary DeFelice, Randy Peck, Angelo Trapani and Jim Wikoff. Alternates are: Ross Clayton, Pat DePalma, Stuart Fuanca, Dave Holmes, and Anna Trapani.

### **NJ Ag Convention**

Delegates chosen were: Angelo Trapani and Pat Butch.  
Alternates will be Anna Trapani and Nyna McKittrick

The Open Space Pace will be held this Saturday with a parade at 10:00.

Nyna McKittrick requested \$1500 scholarship so that she can attend her second year of leadership development program. After discussing our current budget, Ross Clayton moved to pay half now and the other half latter. The motion passed.

A motion to adjourn was made by Anna Trapani and seconded by Marty Bullock. After we adjourned a Special Meeting was called to order by Ed Wengryn. Bill Potter moved to closed the nominations after Angelo Trapani, President, Pat Butch, Vice President, Gary DeFelice, Treasurer and Robin Bruins, Secretary was nominated. Unanimous vote was made. Robin Bruins nominated Stuart Fuanca, Pat Butch nominated Kate Postem and Julie Miller and Angelo Trapani nominated Randy Peck. All were welcomed as executive board members before the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Robin Bruins

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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

Monmouth County Board of Agriculture  
November 19, 2013 Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM by President Angelo Trapani. In attendance were: Pat Butch, Rieks Bruins, Robin Bruins, Bill Carney, Ross Clayton, Matthew Dechristino, Gary DeFelice, Patrick DePalma, Stuart Faunce, Allison Mains, Nyna McKittrick, John Neyhart, Randy Peck, Jeremy Posussymy, Angelo Trapani, Anna Trapani, Ed Wengryn and Jim Wikoff.

Anna Trapani moved to accept the October minutes. The motion was seconded by Rieks Bruins and carried. Anna moved to accept the minutes of the October Executive Board Special meeting. Seconded by Stuart Faunce, the motion passed.

Reports:

**Monmouth County Extension** – John Neyhart reported for Bill Sciarappa that the recent Open Space Pace was a success and that the convention for extension agents had featured recognition for Bill's work.

On behalf of Diane Larson, John thanked the Board for their support for the master gardeners program. 3500 hours of service was given by the participants who gleaned 3500 pounds of produce from the Hungry Garden. This work was noted by the Governor who recognized Bill Sciarappa at the Master Gardeners dinner.

**NJ Department of Agriculture** – Bill Walker was not present to report.

**Farm Bureau** – The annual meeting was adjourned today with the selection of officers. Ed Wengryn informed us that the Governor vetoed the gestation crate bill. Farm Bureau received many calls regarding this bill, many of which were from out of state. Ed urged us to inform our legislators of the importance of ag issues. The Farm bill is in committee. The House has walked away from the immigration issue, no reform will occur this year. The Food Safety and Modernization proposal is open for comment. This should cost affected farmers approximately \$4000 per year in additional costs. Ed informed us that a farmer's grain harvest income would be added to his produce income placing him in an income that would require compliance with the act. Another problem is that current rules on harvest after manure application on organic farms is different from the regulations in the new act.

**Farm Bureau Women's Committee** - Anna Trapani noted the name change for this organization. She thanked the Board for their donation to the Harvest Drive.

**Coop** – Randy Peck stated that some produce is still being sold, such as greens.

**State Board of Agriculture** - Marty Bullock reported that the state ag board Northern caucus met at the Farm Bureau Convention. They chose a candidate for one of two vacancies on the state board of ag. Southern caucus will meet later to choose a candidate.

**Board of Managers** – Pat Butch will distribute the BOM Counties Survey Responses in December. A special meeting is planned by the BOM for Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss the ARMA Strategic Plan, ask questions and address any concerns the BOM may have. The strategic plan is available for your review on both the Monmouth County Website and the BOM website. The BOM is asking County Boards to please review and offer comments and questions at our MCBOA December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting for the special meeting. The candidate for the 4-H agent position has been offered the position. An announcement will be made when a signed contract is received.

**Young Farmers and Ranchers** – Stuart Fuance, Monmouth County’s representative, attended the Young Farmers and Ranchers meeting for farmers age 18 to 35. Many members were previous FFA members and enjoyed the three levels of competition: Discussion, Excellence in Agriculture and Achievement in Agriculture. They will meet again on 2/6/14.

**FFA** - The 86<sup>th</sup> National Convention was the largest ever with 62, 000 in attendance. After Stuart thanked us for our support, the Monmouth Vo-Tech spokesman thanked us for our support during the Monmouth County Fair. The money that they earned enabled the chapter to purchase jackets and educational displays. FFA members will glean a brussel sprouts field in Colts Neck with Sec. Fischer on Saturday. (**Not sure of the date**) Jeremy Posussymy announced that his Superintendent, Dr. Fitzpatrick was given the Honorary American Farmer degree. The chapter has several fundraisers coming up including Citrus Sale, Fall flower arrangements and Poinsettia and winter arrangements. Check the AHS website for details or look for an email from the Board.

**Monmouth County Agricultural Development Board** – No report.

The Treasurer’s Report was given at this point so that a discussion on investments could follow. Gary DeFelice informed us of a new Farm Bureau opportunity for a one year promissory note available for a minimum investment of \$20,000 at 2% interest. Currently our CD, renewed on 4/15/13, earns .6% APR. We will incur a 6 month penalty to withdraw but would earn more by investing with Farm Bureau. Financially, our money market which may not go below \$5000, stands at \$5234.99. Checking has \$4147.34. We anticipate incoming funds from Farm Bureau membership. Our membership numbers are up but our income is down since many memberships are associate and not regular memberships. Anna Trapani moved that we accept the Treasurer’s Report. Marty Bullock seconded the motion which carried. Gary recommended that we invest \$30,000 with Farm Bureau and the balance invested with the money market account. Upon this recommendation, Marty Bullock moved that \$30,000 be invested in the promissory note and the balance in our money market account. The motion passed following a second by Jim Wikoff. There was one abstention. The motion carried.

The dinner will be held on February 27, 2014. Since the extension office has guest lists from previous years, Gary will speak to Bill Sciarappa about sending Save-the-date notes to all legislators. We decided on a buffet style dinner. John Neyhart will email the other FFA

chapters. This year, the invitations will state that one dinner is complimentary and that guests should pay for their dinner.

### **New Business**

Pat Butch suggested that the Board consider passing a resolution in support of Keep It Green's Initiative; to establish a renewable, dedicated source of funding for historic sites, green acres, farmland, and blue acres preservation. Ed voiced Farm Bureau's support for this legislation. Anna Trapani moved to accept this resolution. Stuart Fiance seconded the motion which passed. For the first time in twenty years, the state depleted its designated matching preservation funding with no plan for the future.

The crate bill will be posted for a vote soon. We must reinforce to our legislators that we do not want an override on this issue. Anna Trapani moved to send a letter on this matter. Nyna McKittrick seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Rep. Dancer will introduce a bill regarding the stall tax. Nyna McKittrick moved to write to thank him. Anna Trapani seconded the motion that passed. Ed will send the bill and the secretary will write to Rep. Dancer.

Direct Marketing will offer space on their website for videos and photos for a fee of \$30/year.

Randy Peck requested support for the Baird Historic Farm. Robin Bruins moved that we donate \$100 for an 8 x 8 paver. Jim Wikoff seconded the motion which passed.

Speakers for future meetings were suggested. Wes Kline on Food Safety, Farm Bureau on Land Trust, Bill Petite on Micro Enterprises and Ed Wengryn on communicating with your legislator were mentioned.

Committees were outlined. We should link with Farm Bureau website. Minutes should be sent to the Extension Office so that they can be placed on the website.

We should request that the Changing Times include an FFA column.

Gary DeFelice moved to adjourn, Nyna McKittrick seconded the motion which passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Bruins

Monmouth County Board of Agriculture  
December 17, 2013 Minutes

In attendance were: George Asprocolas, Rieks and Robin Bruins, Billy Carney, Dale Cruzan, Patrick DePalma, Stuart Faunce, Gabi Grunotein, David Holmes, Wickie Hom, Randy Peck, Bill Sciarappa, Anna and Angelo Trapani, Bill Walker, and Ed Wengryn.

The meeting was called to order by President Angelo Trapani at 7:40 PM after holiday refreshments. Anna Trapani moved to approve the November minutes. The motion was seconded by Bill Carney and passed. A current balance of our treasury was not available due to the absence of our treasurer, but Angelo Trapani reported that money has been withdrawn from our account and will be deposited tomorrow as a Farm Bureau promissory note. Gary DeFelice is also creating a budget.

State Board of Agriculture – Bill Walker

Sec. Fisher cut down the first Christmas tree of the season Dec. 2 at the Wyckoff Farm in White Township. This farm won the National Christmas Tree Association contest. Farmers Against Hunger received a \$100,000 Gleaning Support grant for their efforts gleaning 430,000 pounds for food for 70 organizations. NJDA's Jets Play 60 "Eat Right, Move More" program is working with the Dairy Council to incorporate activity and nutrition in our schools. The Department aided farmers in selling sweet potatoes and apples to hunters to be used as bait.

FFA – Stuart Faunce, Bill Carney, Dale Cruzan

180 members recently attended a leadership conference. Monmouth University will be the new site of the State FFA Convention, which had been held at Rutgers in past years. Results of the FFA Career Development Events are available in the Winter Changing Times newsletter. As usual, our county FFA members are knowledgeable and competitive. Allentown will host an Illinois FFA chapter during Martin Luther King weekend.

Freehold HS Animal and Botanical Science Academy received the Exemplary Program Award from the NJ School Boards.

Young Farmers and Ranchers – Stuart Faunce

Meetings are scheduled for January 19, 2014 at 1:30 and at the Ag Convention. Officers have been elected.

Extension – Bill Sciarappa

4-H agent will begin work in January. The \$430,000 salary should be signed by the Freeholders soon, bringing money back to Monmouth County for part time employees and equipment. This money represents salary earned from hours Bill spent teaching for Rutgers without pay. A landscape architect and Fruit Specialist should be hired soon.

Bill and the RCE staff received the Governor's Environmental Excellence Award for outreach programs such as rain garden construction and fertilizer reduction education.

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) program at Neptune's Green Grove Elementary features our horticulturalist Diane Larson's expertise in planting two acres of fruit vines and trees including the first ever disease resistant hazelnuts.

Concern was expressed over the longevity of the Cream Ridge Research Center. Angelo will contact Tom Freiburger to promote the center.

USDA Farm Service Agency – Gabi Grunotein

Since some ballots were misprinted, new ones will be mailed by the 20<sup>th</sup> and are due back in the office by Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>. The ballots will be counted in the office on Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> if you wish to attend. The late fee is waived. Conservation stewardship applications are due Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>.

Farm Bureau – Ed Wengryn

The Ag Committee has moved several bills from farm protection to commercial bee regulations. Open Space Funding is still up in the air. The gestation crate bill was pulled from the board. The new Farm Bill is back to the table with dairy policy being the sticking point. A 45 minute workshop will be offered at the Vegetable Growers meeting on the Food Safety Modernization Act Feb. 21, 2014.

Farm Bureau Women's Committee – Anna Trapani

Thank you for the contribution.

Coop – Randy Peck

The Coop is closed, but they will have a booth at the Ag Convention and will meet Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> at the Mason Lodge. Thanks to the new director, profits are up nearly 25%.

NJ Board of Ag – Marty Bullock

The Ag Convention will be held at the Taj Mahal in Atlantic City, NJ Feb. 4-6. Discount room reservations (\$67) can be made by Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> by calling 800-825-8888. Listening sessions will be Locally Grown, Microenterprises on preserved ground, crisis management and a panel discussion on GMO crops.

Board of Managers – Pat Butch

A letter from Gloucester County was mentioned which requested a tree fruit/ grape specialist. This letter had been presented to Dr. Katz. The job description had been rewritten requesting a small fruit specialist. Better communication is required between North and South and vigilance in maintaining production ag support. 50 to 75% of the money from the county is not being spent in the way that the county wishes.

The Annual ARMA Report was sent out. Email Pat any questions that you have about the information in the report. A special meeting is planned for Jan. 6 at Rutgers Food and Science. A light supper is scheduled for 5:00 and the meeting will follow at 5:30. Information is available on the Board of Manager's and County websites. Contact Pat Butch if you wish to attend so that food can be planned and a parking pass can be obtained for you.

A discussion followed on the Cream Ridge Research Facility. One issue that might be presented at the Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> session is that since we have lost our second ag agent, our county's research farm should receive a specialist to assist our county's farmers, rather than an agent being sent to South Jersey.

New Business

Ed Wengryn presented ideas on successfully contacting your legislators. Emails are best especially for DC correspondence because mailed letters go to an evaluation center prior to delivery. Keep it formal, give your name and address with zipcode for follow up. Include the bill number and whether you support or oppose the issue and a statement of how it affects you personally. If you wish to know how a legislator voted, ask the legislative aide. Office visits can create a relationship which can pay off later. A follow up thank you note is usually appreciated. The Farm Bureau website has current bills information. Congressional offices are in state not DC. Inform the office that you are from NJ.

Suggestions for our board include a once a year meeting with congressional members. Mention five issues that you feel are vital. Thank you notes should be sent to legislators attending our dinner or other events.

Ag Convention dinner payment is due Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>. Let Gary DeFelice know. George Asprocolas plus one, Pat Butch and Randy Peck will attend.

The NJ Green Energy Council requested dues which are \$125. Pat Butch moved to table. Rieks Bruins seconded the motion.

#### Old Business

We thanked Anna Trapani for refreshments.

Our Annual dinner will begin at 6:00 with cocktails, dinner to follow at 7:00.

Anna Trapani moved to adjourn, Marty Bullock seconded the motion which passed at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Bruins