

Monmouth County Board of Agriculture
May 17, 2016 Minutes

In Attendance: George Asprocolas, Rieks Bruins, Robin Bruins, Marty Bullock, Pat Butch, Bill Carney, Gary DeFelice, Stuart Faunce, Gabi Grunstein, Doug Kauffman, Madison Laughlin, Allison Mains, Bill McCormack, Bill Potter, Angelo Trapani, Anna Trapani, Bill Walker, Ed Wengryn, Meg Whitehouse.

President Pat Butch called the meeting to order at 7:34 PM. Bill Carney moved to accept the minutes of the April meeting. Stuart Faunce seconded the motion which carried with one abstention .

Bill Potter moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Stuart Faunce, the motion passed.

No correspondence was received.

Rutgers Cooperative Extension
Report is attached.

FFA

State Convention is May 25 – 27th. Allentown FFA will participate in the Allentown Memorial Day Parade. June 2 is the Annual Banquet at 5:30 at the Millstone Firehouse. June 8, 2016 is the AHS FFA Cookout. Tractor raffle will be drawn October 30th. Tickets are \$10.

Master Gardeners
Report is attached.

Board of Managers

Pat Butch will make "Small Farm" and "Niche Farming" seminars information available. The Budget and Advocacy committee will recognize needs, vacancies and submit a report. A Weed Specialist will be hired soon. There is an opening for a Tree Fruit Specialist at Snyder Farms. Pat was elected president for next year.

Monmouth Co. Ag Development

The John Stewart hearings are finished. A number of appeals were submitted to SADC.

FSA

A bulletin is available outlining tree assistance and available loans on movable equipment.

NRCS

Hosting a wine and equine event on May 19, 2016.

Department of Ag
Report is attached.

State Board of Ag

Angelo Trapani informed us that the Board sent a letter to the Governor regarding the budget. Call his office and contact your representatives to urge the Governor to override the veto on Bill 969. Minimum wage of \$15 would greatly affect agriculture. A tax credit or separate wage is being discussed. A cider license was discussed and the plastic bag bill.

Young Farmers and Ranchers

Stuart Faunce urged participation in the June 25th Cowtown Rodeo Ag Night and the June 28th FFA Alumni Golf Event.

Farm Bureau

A Farm to Fork Farm Bureau event is planned for June 2, 2016.

Farm Bureau Woman's Committee

The National Ag Ed Conference will be held in Phoenix, Arizona featuring information on ag ed Kindergarten through High School.

Tri County

The Coop has been busy. They will meet Wednesday at 5:30.

Scholarship Committee

After meeting, the Committee recommended that the Board award five scholarships in the amount of \$500 each. Marty Bullock moved to award five \$500 scholarships. Rieks Bruins seconded the motion which was approved. Our Bylaws dictate that we maintain \$5000 in our scholarship account. Meg Whitehouse moved that we move \$1500 from our Money Market account to our checking account to fund these scholarships. This motion was seconded by Rieks Bruins. The motion carried.

Fair

The layout was reviewed. Bags will be ordered.

Website

Farm Bureau can link to our website. We will shift the current host. Bill Potter moved to set up a website, allocating up to \$700. The motion was seconded by Stuart Faunce and carried.

Freeholders Legislative Breakfast was discussed. Mercer County Board of Ag invites approximately 40 people for 1 ½ to 2 hours. A motion to allocate \$750 for this event was made by Marty Bullock and seconded by Meg Whitehouse. This motion was approved.

Old Business

Robin Bruins moved to sponsor a \$250 ad at the Open Space Pace. This motion was seconded by Stuart Faunce and passed.

There are two search committees. Pat Butch can recommend Meg Whitehouse be on the 4-H Agent Search Committee. Robin Bruins will also be on the 4-H Search Committee representing the Board of Managers. Chet Halk, Art Lustgraten and Randy Peck were recommended to represent our county on the Nursery Specialist search committee.

Meg Whitehouse moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Stuart Faunce, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Bruins