

TOWNSHIP OF HOWELL

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & LAND USE

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Sent via Email .pdf C/O Maria Rivera (maria.rivera@ag.state.nj.us)

April 13, 2018

New Jersey State Agriculture Development Committee
PO Box 330
Trenton, NJ 08625

Attn: Susan E. Payne, Executive Director

**Re: Municipal Planning Incentive Grant Update
Howell Township, Monmouth County, New Jersey**

Dear Ms. Payne:

In response to your letter to Howell Township dated March 2, 2018 regarding Howell Township's farmland preservation and municipal planning incentive grant program, I would like to provide you with an update on our current preservation projects and request an addition to our identified PIG Project areas and our target farms list. Please review the information below:

1. Closed Projects: The Township and partners closed on Nevergreen/Feigus Farm March 2018. This 22-acre farm was preserved under the non-profit program in partnership with the Monmouth Conservation Foundation. This farm was deemed a valuable asset to the Township Council. The preservation of this farm secures a swath of 60-acres of preserved farmland due to its contiguity to an existing preserved farm.
2. Active Projects: The Township is actively pursuing the preservation of the 26-acre Gilmartin Farm, Block 170, Lots 12, 01, 14, 15 and 16, from our target farm list through SADC ID# 13-0465-PG. Appraisals were received and submitted to the SADC for review. Partners are estimating the price at \$19,000/acre, which will utilize \$297,400 from our available SADC municipal PIG funds for an estimated 2019 closing.
3. SADC Funds: Howell Township currently has \$954,863.90 in grant funds available with the SADC through the municipal PIG program. Following the Gilmartin acquisition, the Township will have a remaining balance of approximately \$657,463. The Township is working diligently to utilize these available funds.
4. Future Projects: With the assistance of the Monmouth Conservation Foundation, the Township is actively pursuing additional farmland preservation possibilities. Outreach has been made to all of the property owners with farms on the target farms list. Howell is also conducting a thorough review of all of the remaining farmland within the Township to determine if any additional farms may be eligible for preservation through the Farmland Preservation Program.

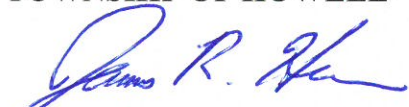
5. Proposed New Project Area: Howell is proposing the creation of a new project area in the southern portion of Howell, the Metedeconk Project Area. This new project area has been targeted and identified by the Township in order to promote the long-term viability of agriculture in this area of the Township. The area is located within the ADA area and is outside of the sewer service area. The Township is requesting the approval of this new project area by the SADC. A map of the proposed new project area is included. A few properties within this new area will be targeted for preservation.
6. Amendment to Target Farms List: Howell wishes to amend our Target Farm List with the addition of Block 71, Lot 36 within the new proposed Metedeconk Project Area. The Township has identified this farm as a good candidate for Farmland Preservation. A map of this property is included. The Township has been in communications with the landowner, and following the addition of this farm to the Target Farm List, the Township intends to submit an application to the SADC for preservation of this farm.

The Township of Howell is dedicated to preserve the remaining farmland within the Township with the hopes of safeguarding our rural agricultural history and protecting the viability of the agricultural community.

If you have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to email me at jherrman@twp.howell.nj.us or call me at ext. 2315.

Very truly yours,

TOWNSHIP OF HOWELL – DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



James R. Herrman, P.E., C.M.E.
Acting Deputy Township Manager /
Director of Community Development

JRH:JC

Attachments

cc: Harriet Honigfeld, Monmouth County Farmland Preservation Coordinator (*via email .pdf*)
Daniel Knox, State Agriculture Development Committee (*via email .pdf*)
Steve Bruder, State Agriculture Development Committee (*via email .pdf*)
Megan Stanley, State Agriculture Development Committee (*via email .pdf*)
Jena Cosimo, Monmouth Conservation Foundation (*via email .pdf*)
Brian Geoghegan, Township Manager (*via email .pdf*)
Joseph Clark, Esq., Gluck Walrath LLP (*via email .pdf*)