

**TOWNSHIP OF FRANKLIN
R-161-21**

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE TOWNSHIP’S FARMLAND PRESERVATION EFFORTS AND GOALS AS INDICATED THROUGH THE MUNICIPAL FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN AND PLANNING INCENTIVE GRANT (PIG) PROGRAM

WHEREAS, beginning in 2007, the State Agriculture Development Committee (“SADC”) required the development of a Municipal Farmland Preservation Plan in order for interested municipalities to qualify for local farmland preservation funding through the Municipal Planning Incentive Grant (“PIG”) Program; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Franklin undertook the task to develop the Township of Franklin Farmland Preservation Plan (“the Plan”), with said Plan receiving final approval by the SADC in 2010; and

WHEREAS, as part of the Municipal PIG Program, the Township of Franklin was required to submit a Municipal PIG application to the SADC, along with the submission of an annual compliance statement confirming that the Township was, and is, meeting its municipal farmland preservation goals; and

WHEREAS, the SADC recently indicated that all future annual compliance statements must be accompanied by a resolution from the municipal governing body indicating that said body approves and remains supportive of the municipal farmland preservation efforts goals as indicated in the Plan and compliance statement; and

WHEREAS, since the Township of Franklin is currently in the process of completing the required 10-year update to its Municipal Farmland Preservation Plan, the SADC is not requiring the submission of the annual PIG Compliance Report this year, and is excepting the Plan update is this year’s submission; and

WHEREAS, at its meeting on September 13, 2021, the Franklin Township Agriculture Advisory Committee discussed the 10-year update to the Municipal Farmland Preservation Program, which notes the following recent accomplishments:

- (a) Since the establishment of the Farmland Preservation Program, the Township of Franklin has preserved and/or helped to preserve approximately 3,203 acres of municipal farmland.
- (b) In the past year the Township of Franklin has assisted in the preservation of one farm, totaling 55 acres (preserved through the Municipal PIG Program).
- (c) A total of 10 properties totaling more than 500 acres are currently in the preservation process or have indicated their interest in the preservation program and are under evaluation.
- (d) In December 2021 the Township of Franklin revised its land use provisions to recognize agriculture as a permitted use in all zoning districts, which provides Right-to-Farm protection for all qualified commercial farms, and allowed the submission of farmland preservation applications from qualified properties previously denied that opportunity.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Township Committee of the Township of Franklin, County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey, that said body approves and remains supportive of the municipal farmland preservation efforts and goals as indicated in the 10-year update to the Franklin Township Farmland Preservation Plan and the Municipal PIG Program.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Municipal Clerk is directed to forward certified copies of this Resolution to the Gloucester County Office of Land Preservation and the State Agriculture Development Committee as required.

Adopted:

COMMITTEE MEMBER	MOTION	2 nd	YES	ABSTAIN	NO	ABSENT
T. Doyle						
D. Deegan						
M. Petsch-Wilson						
H. Flaim						
J. Bruno						

Attest:

Township of Franklin

Barbara Freijomil, Clerk

John Bruno, Mayor

CERTIFICATION

I, Barbara Freijomil, Clerk of the Township of Franklin, do hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was presented and duly adopted by the Township Committee at a meeting held on Tuesday, October 12, 2021.

Barbara Freijomil, Clerk