

June 24, 2019

RE: Mayor Hornik's Position on the Morgan Farm DEP Application
Block 225, Lots 227,228,230

We strongly oppose any use to the property that would result in residential development because it would negatively impact the quality of life in surrounding areas.

In fact, this property was included in the Township's most recent submission (Nov, 2018) to the NJ Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) for farmland grant funding, and has been included on the Township's target farm preservation list for many years. We continue our aggressive efforts to preserve farmland and open space. Our focus has been on maintaining the suburban character of the Township which appeals to our long-time residents and has also served to attract new residents. During my tenure, we have preserved more than 260 acres of open space and farmland, protecting valuable land from development for the benefit of generations to come. Last year, we preserved 56 acres located at the intersection of Routes 520 and 79 known as the Stattel Farm - soon to be home to our new Marlboro Farmers Market.

The purpose of requesting for a "Letter of Interpretation" (LOI) from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) is to determine the extent of wetlands on a property. LOI applications are made for a variety of reasons, for example, by someone marketing a parcel for sale or by a property owner contemplating constructing improvements in their yard. At this stage, **Marlboro Township has not received the plans referenced in this NJDEP letter nor any information from the property owner regarding intent to develop.**

Ultimately, if the Morgan Farm property contains sufficient developable acreage and the owner wishes to develop the parcel, an application would need to be made to one or both Marlboro land use boards. Should an application for development ever be received, the applicant would be required to notice those owning property in the area pursuant to New Jersey Local Land Use Law. As always, the Township would email notification of land use board agendas to those registered to receive email blasts. To sign up for weekly email notifications, please visit www.marlboro-nj.gov to register for email updates.

As per the letter dated June 11, 2019, residents should address written comments and concerns to the DEP during the commenting period at the following address:

NJ Department of Environmental Protection
PO Box 420, Code 501-02A
Trenton, NJ 08625
Attn: Marlboro Township Supervisor

We will be certain to keep residents informed about any news concerning the parcel, and will continue our work to maintain the quality of life in our residential neighborhoods.

Sincerely,
Mayor Jon Hornik