MAYOR HORNIK TO PRESIDE AT MARLBORO FARMERS MARKET GRAND OPENING

MARLBORO TOWNSHIP, NEW JERSEY (June 25, 2019) –Mayor Jon Hornik, elected officials and the Marlboro Economic Development Committee will hold a Grand Opening Day Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to launch the inaugural season of the Marlboro Farmers Market. The ceremony will take place on Sunday, June 30, 2019 at 11am at the Market located on Route 520 just west of Highway 79.

The Marlboro Farmers Market held a 'soft' opening June 23, 2019. Residents learned of the surprise opening through social media posting and a live Facebook video. Word quickly spread and hundreds of shoppers visited the market throughout the day purchasing fresh vegetables, baked goods, cheese, fish, pickles, herbs and more.

Mayor Jon Hornik stated, "We have wanted a Farmers Market for years, so when we preserved the Stattel Farm in 2017 this was the perfect opportunity and location to start one." said Mayor Hornik. "I was sure that this was needed and wanted in in Marlboro Township, but the swift response to the live Facebook video left no doubt. Bringing fresh produce to our residents, enhancing our commercial base, and using this space for something that will actively engage the public is a win, win."

The Marlboro Farmers Market will be open every Sunday from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm beginning June 30 until October 27, rain or shine. There is ample parking on site behind the vendor area. Handicapped parking is available at street level.

"The Township had been actively engaged in attempting to purchase this property since 2008. Located in the center of Town, between the municipal complex, the recreation center and Marlboro High School -- the very heart of our Community-- made it vitally important to preserve." Mayor Hornik stated. "Using this land for our Market really honors the tradition of the Stattel Farm as well as Marlboro's roots as an agricultural community."

Market vendors include Navtan Farms, LOCAL 130 Seafood, Cherry Grove Farm, Dogwood Farms, Picklelicious, Annie &Em's Bake Shop, From the Garden Honey, Baker's Bounty, Little Box Farms, Beyond Organic Growers, and The Baklava Lady, some on an alternating schedule with additional vendors expected to join. Community activities such as yoga, cooking demonstrations, other events will be announced throughout the season. A Facebook group <u>Marlboro Farmers Market</u> has been launched to keep residents informed of market happenings.

To complement the Township's sustainable initiatives, the Green Team and Shade Tree/Community Garden representatives will be at opening day selling Marlboro Farmers Market sustainable and reusable tote bags made from 100% cotton for \$5 per bag. Net proceeds will support the Market and are available while supplies last. The Market is sponsored by Marlboro Township who has solicited the help of professional market manager, Pamela Caputo of Community Greenmarket Organizers. Their mission is to provide a venue for farmers to sell locally grown produce directly to the community. The Market will be limited to vendors who are growers or producers of homemade products. Farmers who are interested in being considered as a market vendor should send an email to <u>CoGrO monmouth@icloud.com</u> or call 732-982-7842.