

MINUTES
MORRIS COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
30 Schuyler Place, 4th Floor, Morristown, New Jersey
July 11, 2013

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Keller at 7:32 p.m. Members present:

Aimee Ashley Myers
Dale Davis
Louise Davis
Rick Desiderio
Harvey Ort
Kenneth Wightman

Staff in attendance:

Deena Leary
Ray Chang
W. Randall Bush, Esq.
Katherine Coyle
Tina Boyer

COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW

Chairman Keller announced that in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided and filed with the Town of Morristown, the Morris County Clerk, the Daily Record and the Star Ledger.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the June 13, 2013 meeting were not available.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

CLOSED SESSION

On motion of member Wightman, seconded by member L. Davis, the Board closed the open portion of the meeting pursuant to P.L. 1975 Ch. 231, the Open Public Meetings Act and per the Board's standard resolution language, and voted to conduct a Closed Session.

RETURN TO MEETING

The meeting reopened to the public at 8:48 p.m.

ACTIONS RESULTING FROM CLOSED SESSION

Scheller Farm, Washington Township. On motion of member L. Davis, seconded by member Wightman, the Board agreed to waive the application fee for the Scheller Farm in light of extenuating circumstance. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley-Myers, D. Davis, L. Davis, Desiderio, Ort, Wightman and Keller

Nay: None Abstain: None

Meyer Farm, Boonton Township. On motion of member Wightman, seconded by member L. Davis, the Board directed staff to send a letter to the farm owner per Policy: P-10. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley-Myers, D. Davis, L. Davis, Desiderio, Ort, Wightman and Keller

Nay: None Abstain: None

Thebault Farm, Harding Township. On motion of member Wightman, seconded by member L. Davis, the Board directed staff to send a letter to the farm owner per Policy: P-10. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley-Myers, D. Davis, L. Davis, Desiderio, Ort, Wightman and Keller

Nay: None Abstain: None

REPORT OF DIRECTOR & ATTORNEY

Monitoring – North-East and Central Regions. Ms. Coyle informed the Board that she completed monitoring of the North-East and Central Region farms. The monitoring reports were forwarded to the SADC and the landowners.

A4261 - Extends Right to Farm Act protections to commercial beekeepers. Ms. Coyle informed the Board that the bill was introduced on June 24, 2013 and was referred to the Assembly Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee.

SCR138 & ACR179 - Amends Constitution to dedicate \$200 million annually from FY2015 to FY2044 of sales and use tax revenue for open space, flood prone areas, farmland, and historic preservation. Ms. Coyle informed the Board that on June 20, 2013, the Senate bill was passed by the Senate. The Assembly did not post the measure for a vote, which means that it may not get on the November ballot.

S2529 & A3824 - The "Preserve New Jersey Act of 2013" - implements constitutional dedication of sales tax revenue for open space, including flood prone areas, farmland, and historic preservation purposes. Ms. Coyle informed the Board that on May 20, 2013, the bill was referred to the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee. No action has been taken on the Assembly bill since February 11, 2013.

Expiration of the Highlands dual-appraisal provision. Ms. Coyle informed the Board that CADB Administrators from all counties in the Highlands Region are working to coordinate a joint effort to secure an extension. A draft letter was prepared and distributed to the CADB's for review and approval. The Sussex and Warren CADB's approved the letter. The Somerset

CADB wished to send an individual letter. There had been no response from the Hunterdon CADB – Ms. Coyle would contact the Administrator again. The Passaic CADB meets quarterly, however, the draft letter was presented to the Chairman.

RIGHT TO FARM

L. Simone & W. & M. Ford. Staff and the Board discussed the receipt of a letter from Mr. Frank dated July 3, 2013.

L. Simone. Mr. Bush informed the Board that a telephone conference with Judge McGee would be scheduled for early September.

W. & M. Ford, Boonton Township. The matter was tabled until August 8, 2013. Member Ort requested that the CADB conducts a site visit to the Ford property. Chairman Keller agreed. The members discussed moving the August 8th meeting to Boonton Township. On motion of member Ort, seconded by member L. Davis, the Board directed staff to schedule a site visit to the Ford property with experts (if available) at 6:30 p.m. on August 8th and to move the August 8th meeting to Boonton Township following the site visit. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Ashley-Myers, D. Davis, L. Davis, Desiderio, Ort, Wightman and Keller
Nay: None Abstain: None

Tranquility Farm, Chester Twp. Mr. Bush advised that on June 25, 2013, he sent a letter to the Local Finance Board (LFB) seeking guidance regarding the potential conflict.

Kathleen Davo, Washington Township. Ms. Coyle informed the Board that Ms. Dave submitted an application for a SSAMP. The application was incomplete and Ms. Coyle had requested additional information.

On-Farm Direct Marketing AMP – Ms. Coyle informed the Board that the proposed new rule was published in the NJ Register on June 17, 2013. On motion of member D. Davis, seconded by member L. Davis, the Board directed staff to submit formal comments regarding the Direct Marketing AMP. A roll call vote was taken. Aye: Ashley-Myers, D. Davis, L. Davis, Desiderio, Ort, Wightman and Keller
Nay: None Abstain: None

RTF Process revisions & RTF Hearing Procedures - Ms. Coyle informed the Board that the proposed new rule was published in the NJ Register on June 17, 2013.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to review.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to review.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2013-05: Final Approval: Michel 1 Farm, Chester Twp. On motion of member Wightman, seconded by member L. Davis, the Board approved resolution 2013-05. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley-Myers, D. Davis, L. Davis, Desiderio, Ort, Wightman and Keller

Nay: None Abstain: None

Resolution 2013-06: Final Approval: Michel 2 Farm, Chester Twp. On motion of member Wightman, seconded by member L. Davis, the Board approved resolution 2013-06. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley-Myers, D. Davis, L. Davis, Desiderio, Ort, Wightman and Keller

Nay: None Abstain: None

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion of member L. Davis, seconded by member Wightman, the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Katherine Coyle
Director