

**MINUTES**  
**MORRIS COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**  
**30 Schuyler Place, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Morristown, New Jersey**  
**February 5, 2015**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Keller at 7:34 p.m. Members present:

Aimee Ashley Myers  
Dale Davis  
Rick Desiderio  
Kenneth Wightman

Members with an excused absence:

Louise Davis  
Harvey Ort

Also in Attendance:

Xavier Martinez (arrived at 7:38 p.m., departed at 7:42 p.m.)  
Frank Pinto (departed at 7:54 p.m.)

Staff in attendance:

Christine Marion  
W. Randall Bush, Esq.  
Katherine Coyle

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**COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion of member Wightman, seconded by member Ashley Myers, the Board members approved the April 10, 2014 meeting minutes. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: D. Davis, Desiderio, Wightman and Keller

Nay: None Abstain: Ashley Myers

On motion of member Wightman, seconded by member Ashley Myers, the Board members approved the May 8, 2014 meeting minutes. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay: None Abstain: None

On motion of member Ashley Myers, seconded by member Wightman, the Board members approved the January 8, 2015 meeting minutes. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers and Desiderio

Nay: None Abstain: D. Davis, Wightman and Keller

## **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Mr. Xavier Martinez provided information about the Zufall Health Center. The Center provides affordable medical and dental services at its nine locations. Mr. Martinez, a Rural Health Representative, provided information about services available to farm workers, including a Highlands Health Van, a mobile medical unit.

Mr. Martinez departed at 7:42 p.m.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Member Wightman made a motion seconded by member D. Davis, to close the open portion of the meeting pursuant to P.L. 1975 Ch. 231, the Open Public Meetings Act. Chairman Keller announced that in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, the Morris CADB considered closing the open portion of the meeting in order to discuss matters related to the purchase, lease or acquisition of real property, and litigation in Closed Session. The Board then voted to conduct a Closed Session in order to discuss matters related to the purchase, lease or acquisition of real property in closed session.

## **RETURN TO MEETING**

The meeting reopened to the public at 8:53 p.m.

## **ACTIONS RESULTING FROM CLOSED SESSION**

*(Michele Richard) Verbeke Farm, Chester Township.* On motion of member Wightman, seconded by member D. Davis, the Board agreed to add the farm to the Agricultural Development Area and the targeted list per the discussion during Closed Session. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, D. Davis, Wightman and Keller

Nay: None Abstain: Desiderio

## **REPORT OF DIRECTOR & ATTORNEY**

*Legislative Updates.* Legislative updates were shared with the Board via email prior to the meeting.

## **RIGHT TO FARM**

*Edward Ball (Flying Alpaca Farm), Washington Township - complaint.* Ms. Coyle informed the Board that the owners of the farm responded to the request for a Commercial Farm Certification.

However, the farm owners did not provide adequate evidence that they operate a “commercial farm” as defined by the Right to Farm Act. On motion of member Wightman, seconded by member D. Davis, the Board directed staff to send a letter to the farm owners requesting that additional documentation be provided by February 27, 2015. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay: None Abstain: None

*River Run Stables, Washington Township – request for SSAMP.* Ms. Coyle presented to the Board a Staff Report, which outlined the procedures for development of SSAMPs, Right to Farm eligibility criteria, documentation provided by the applicant and staff recommendation. On motion of member Ashley Myers, seconded by member D. Davis, the Board determined that the River Run Stables operation is a “commercial farm” as defined by the Right to Farm Act, meets the eligibility criteria of the Act, the activities in question are protected by the Act and the proposal complies with the Deed of Easement and Morris CADB Policy: P-15, Equine Activities on Preserved Farmland. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay: None Abstain: None

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

*Michel Richard, Chester Twp. - request for inclusion in ADA.* The Board reviewed the landowner’s request during Closed Session and took action in Open Session.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to review.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Resolution 2015-02: Final Approval: Scheller Farm, Washington Twp. On motion of member Wightman, seconded by member D. Davis, the Board adopted Resolution 2015-02. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay: None Abstain: None

Resolution 2015-03: Final Approval: Parks Farm, Chester Twp. On motion of member Wightman, seconded by member D. Davis, the Board adopted Resolution 2015-03. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay: None Abstain: None

Resolution 2015-04: Final Approval: Marancon Farm, Mount Olive Twp. On motion of member Wightman, seconded by member D. Davis, the Board adopted Resolution 2015-04. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay: None Abstain: None

Resolution 2015-05: Preliminary Approval: Simon Farm, Harding Twp. On motion of member Ashley Myers, seconded by member D. Davis, the Board adopted Resolution 2015-05. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, D. Davis, Desiderio and Keller

Nay: None Abstain: Wightman

### **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Members Wightman, Ashley Myers and D. Davis informed the Board regarding the SADC's presentation the Ag. Convention regarding draft Soil Disturbance regulations. The agricultural community has expressed great concern about the impact of the regulations on the farming industry.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, on motion of member Wightman, seconded by member D. Davis, the meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Coyle". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Katherine Coyle  
Director