

MINUTES
MORRIS COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
30 Schuyler Place, 4th Floor, Morristown, New Jersey
October 8, 2015

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

Aimee Ashley Myers
Dale Davis
Rick Desiderio (arrived at 7:45 p.m.)
Harvey Ort
Ken Wightman

Members with an excused absence:

Louise Davis

Staff in attendance:

Christine Marion
W. Randall Bush, Esq.
Katherine Coyle

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 September 10, 2015 meeting minutes. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ort and Wightman

Nay: None Abstain: Ashley Myers, D. Davis, Keller

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

CLOSED SESSION

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. On motion of member Wightman, seconded by member Ashley Myers, the Board voted to conduct a Closed Session. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay: None Abstain: None

RETURN TO MEETING

The meeting reopened to the public at 8:10 p.m.

ACTIONS RESULTING FROM CLOSED SESSION

Konkus Farm, Chester Township. On motion of member Wightman, seconded by member D. Davis, the Board agreed to make an offer to the landowners per the Board's discussion during Closed Session. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay: None Abstain: None

REPORT OF DIRECTOR & ATTORNEY

Open Space Liaison. Ms. Coyle informed the Board that member Keller's term would be expiring at the end of the year and that the Board needed to appoint a new liaison. The Board discussed the appointment. Member Keller agreed to serve another term.

Annual Planning Incentive Grant Application. Ms. Coyle informed the Board that as part of the process of preparing the annual PIG application, she had sent a notification letter to each municipality that has farms that are targeted for preservation. No comments have been received.

Monitoring – Western Region. Ms. Coyle informed the Board that monitoring of Western Region farms was underway. Monitoring of farms in Chester Township and Borough will be concluded by the end of October. Farms in Washington and Mt. Olive Townships will be monitored during the months of November and December.

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

RIGHT TO FARM

There were no Right to Farm matters to review.

CORRESPONDENCE

John Crater Farms, Washington Twp. – request for SADC enrollment. The Board reviewed the landowner's request. On motion of member Ashley Myers, seconded by member Wightman, the Board authorized staff to begin the process of enrolling the farm in the state program provided that there will be no cost to the County associated with the enrollment. If there is a cost

associated with the process, the Board will review the cost before proceeding with the enrollment.

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

Nay: None Abstain: None

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to review.

NEW BUSINESS

At this point, member Desiderio left the meeting room.

PUBLIC HEARING: *Modification of Agricultural Development Area to include Black 42, Lot 33 in the Township of Chester.*

Ms. Coyle stated for the record that a “Legal Notice of Public Hearing” was published on September 24, 2015 pursuant to N.J.A.C. 2:76-1 et seq.

Ms. Coyle stated that the ADA identifies “...lands that are currently in agricultural production or have a strong potential for production and in which agriculture is permitted under the current municipal zoning ordinance...” Ms. Coyle explained the need for inclusion of the above listed lots in the ADA - to be eligible for a farmland preservation cost-share grant from the SADC, a farm must be part of the county’s ADA. Black 42, Lot 33 in Chester Township is part of a pending application for permanent preservation.

Ms. Coyle stated that no comments (written or verbal) had been submitted prior to the Public Hearing. No comments (written or verbal) were submitted during the Public Hearing.

On motion of member Wightman, seconded by member D. Davis, the Board adopted Resolution 2015-12, Modification of Agricultural Development Area to include Black 42, Lot 33 in the Township of Chester. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay: None Abstain: None

Member Desiderio did not participate in voting.

At this point, member Desiderio returned to the meeting room.

At this point, member Ort left the meeting room.

Resolution 2015-13: Final Approval: Tinc Farm, Mt. Olive Twp. On motion of member Ashley Myers, seconded by member D. Davis, the Board adopted Resolution 2015-13. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay: None Abstain: None

Member Ort did not participate in voting.

At this point, member Ort returned to the meeting room.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Board members and staff congratulated members Desiderio and Wightman on their recent successes.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion of member D. Davis, seconded by member Ort, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Coyle". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Katherine Coyle
Director