

MINUTES
MORRIS COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
30 Schuyler Place, 4th Floor, Morristown, New Jersey
March 10, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Secretary Ashley Myers at 7:36 p.m. Members present:

Aimee Ashley Myers
Dale Davis
Kathy Hammond
Harvey Ort

Members with an excused absence:

Rick Desiderio
Gregory Keller
Kenneth Wightman

Staff in attendance:

Christine Marion
W. Randall Bush, Esq.
Katherine Coyle

COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW

Secretary Ashley Myers 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 Ort, seconded by member Hammond, the Board members approved the January 14, 2016 meeting minutes. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Hammond, and Ort

Nay: None Abstain: Davis

On motion of member Ort, seconded by member Hammond, the Board members approved the February 11, 2016 meeting minutes. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Davis, Hammond, and Ort

Nay: None Abstain: None

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, Secretary Ashley Myers 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 Ort, seconded by member Hammond, the Board voted to conduct a Closed Session. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Davis, Hammond, and Ort

Nay: None Abstain: None

RETURN TO MEETING

The meeting reopened to the public at 8:06 p.m.

REPORT OF DIRECTOR & ATTORNEY

Meeting with representatives from S. Korean Ministry of Agriculture. Ms. Coyle informed the Board regarding a visit by representatives from the S. Korean Ministry of Agriculture, who met with staff to learn about agriculture in Morris County.

November meeting date change. Ms. Coyle asked the Board members to allow for a change of the November meeting date due to two federal holidays during the week of the currently scheduled meeting. The Board agreed to move the meeting to Thursday, November 3rd. Staff would prepare the appropriate public notice.

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

ACTIONS RESULTING FROM CLOSED SESSION

No actions were taken as a result of Closed Session.

RIGHT TO FARM

There were no Right to Farm matters to review.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to review.

OLD BUSINESS

At this point Member Davis left the meeting room.

Resolution 2016-05: Forte Farm, Chester Twp. On motion of member Ort, seconded by member Hammond, the Board approved Resolution 2016-05. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Hammond, and Ort

Nay: None Abstain: None

Member Davis did not participate in the vote.

At this point Member Davis returned to the meeting room.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business to review.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Maier Farm, Washington Township. Member Davis informed the Board that the DEP Bureau of Water Allocation and Well Permitting reduced the Maier Brothers Farm's monthly well water allocation from 14.4 to 4.752 million gallons and the annual allocation from 119.69 to 57.024 gallons. Member Davis expressed his concern about the impact on the preserved farm and its viability and explained that the farm's water needs were calculated by the County Extension Agent based on crops grown and the need to irrigate the entire farm in case of a drought.

On motion of member Ort, seconded by member Hammond, the Board directed staff to send a letter to the DEP and the SADC regarding the well water allocation permits. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Hammond, and Ort

Nay: None Abstain: Davis

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion of member Ort, seconded by member Hammond, the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Katherine Coyle
Director