

MINUTES
MORRIS COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
30 Schuyler Place, 4th Floor, Morristown, New Jersey
February 28, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Keller at 7:33 p.m. Members present:

Aimee Ashley Myers
Dale Davis
Kathy Hammond
Harvey Ort
Jay Thomson

Members with an excused absence:

Rick Desiderio

Also in Attendance:

Peter Nietzsche, RCE

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.

BOARD REORGANIZATION

The Board and staff welcomed Mr. Jay Thomson. The Board of Chosen Freeholders appointed Mr. Thomson to serve as a public member. The Board members and staff introduced themselves to member Thomson.

Election of Officers

Chairman Keller turned the meeting over to Ms. Coyle for the purpose of electing new officers. Ms. Coyle served as temporary Chairman and took nominations for the position of Chairman.

Chairman

On motion of member Ort, seconded by member Ashley Myers, Mr. Davis was nominated for Chairman. There being no other nominations, a roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Davis, Hammond, Keller, Ort and Thomson
Nay: None Abstain: None

Mr. Davis was elected Chairman. Chairman Davis chaired the meeting from this point forward.

Vice-Chairman

On motion of member Ort, seconded by member Keller, Ms. Ashley Myers was nominated for Vice-Chairman. There being no other nominations a roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Davis, Hammond, Keller, Ort and Thomson
Nay: None Abstain: None

Ms. Ashley Myers was elected Vice-Chairman.

Secretary

On motion of member Thomson, seconded by member Ashley Myers, Mr. Keller was nominated for Secretary. There being no other nominations a roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Davis, Hammond, Keller, Ort and Thomson
Nay: None Abstain: None

Mr. Keller was elected Secretary.

Meeting Dates Resolution

On motion of member Keller, seconded by member Hammond, the Board members unanimously approved Resolution 2017-01, which established the time, date, place and agenda for the meetings of 2017 and January 2018. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Davis, Hammond, Keller, Ort and Thomson
Nay: None Abstain: None

Mission Statement

The Board members reviewed the Mission Statement. On motion of member Ort, seconded by member Thomson, the Board reaffirmed the Mission Statement without change. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Davis, Hammond, Keller, Ort and Thomson
Nay: None Abstain: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of member Ashley Myers, seconded by member Hammond, the Board members approved the October 6, 2016 meeting minutes. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Davis, Hammond, Ort
Nay: None Abstain: Thomson and Keller

On motion of member Ashley Myers, seconded by member Hammond, the Board members approved the November 3, 2016 meeting minutes. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Davis, Hammond, Keller and Ort
Nay: None Abstain: Thomson

On motion of member Hammond, seconded by member Ashley Myers, the Board members approved the December 8, 2016 meeting minutes. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Davis, Hammond, Keller and Ort

Nay: None Abstain: Ashley Myers and Thomson

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

Aye: Ashley Myers, Davis, Hammond, Keller, Ort and Thomson

Nay: None Abstain: None

RETURN TO MEETING

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

ACTIONS RESULTING FROM CLOSED SESSION

Lum Farm, Mt. Olive Township. On motion of member Ort, seconded by member Ashley Myers, the Board directed staff to notify the landowner regarding the Board's discussion during Closed Session. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Davis, Hammond, Keller, Ort and Thomson

Nay: None Abstain: None

Bostrom Farm, Randolph Township. On motion of member Ashley Myers, seconded by member Ort, the Board directed staff to notify the landowner regarding the Board's discussion during Closed Session. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Davis, Hammond, Keller, Ort and Thomson

Nay: None Abstain: None

At this point, member Thomson left the meeting room.

Verbeke Farm, Chester Township. On motion of member Ort, seconded by member Ashley Myers, the Board agreed to make an offer to the landowner per the Board's discussion during Closed Session. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Davis, Hammond, Keller, Ort

Nay: None Abstain: None Recused: Thomson

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

Picozzi Farm, Harding Township. On motion of member Ort, seconded by member Ashley Myers, the Board directed staff to notify the landowner regarding the Board's discussion during Closed Session. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Davis, Hammond, Keller, Ort and Thomson

Nay: None Abstain: None

REPORT OF DIRECTOR & ATTORNEY

Annual PIG Application. Ms. Coyle informed the Board that she had submitted to the SADC the annual Planning Incentive Application.

Soil & Water Conservation Project Cost Sharing. Ms. Coyle informed the Board that the SADC once again has funding available for soil and water conservation projects.

SADC Deer Fencing Program. Ms. Coyle informed the Board that the SADC has funding available for cost-share grants for deer fencing on preserved farmland. Ms. Coyle provided information about the application process and stated that the information is also available on the County's and the SADC's websites.

Monitoring: Western Region. Ms. Coyle informed the Board that monitoring of Western Region farms was completed in December. Reports were submitted to the SADC and mailed to the landowners.

Special Events on Preserved Farmland. Ms. Coyle informed the Board about the SADC's invitation for CADB members to participate on the SADC/Farm Bureau working group, which examines special occasion events on farmland. The SADC is required to make recommendations to the Legislature prior to the March 2018 expiration of the winery pilot program.

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

There was no correspondence to review.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to review.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to review.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion of member Ort, seconded by member Ashley Myers, the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 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