

MINUTES
MORRIS COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
30 Schuyler Place, 2nd Floor, Morristown, New Jersey
August 6, 2020

Held remotely due to Covid-19 via Webex:

<https://morriscountynj.webex.com/morriscountynj/j.php?MTID=m070f58de890c0d01eb4315a1ccfad2f>

Or via: 1-408-418-9388 Access code: 129 860 4274

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Davis at 7:36 p.m. Members present:

Aimee Ashley Myers
Thomas Galfo
Gregory Keller
Jay Thomson

Members with an excused absence:

Harvey Ort

Also in attendance:

Freeholder Stephen Shaw
Amy Mandelbaum, SADC
Brandi Bartolomeo, PSE&G
Brandon Caliendo, PSE&G
Jaye Cavallo, PSE&G
William Perry, PSE&G
John Valeri, PSE&G Counsel

Staff in attendance:

Joseph Barilla
Staci Santucci, Esq.
Katherine Coyle

COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW

Chairman Davis 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 Clerk of the Board of Chosen Freeholders, the Daily Record and the Star Ledger and posted on the Morris County website.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Chairman Davis requested a moment of silence in honor of member Desiderio who recently passed away. Following the moment of silence, Chairman Davis spoke about member Desiderio's legacy, dedication and contributions to the CADB, Morris County and agricultural community, particularly the equine industry.

NEW BUSINESS

PSE&G Roseland–Pleasant Valley (RPV) Overhead Transmission Project – Kielblock Farm, Long Hill Twp. Members of the PSE&G team introduced themselves to the Board. The PSE&G team provided an overview of the RPV project and the project's impact on the preserved Kielblock Farm, and answered the Board members' questions.

The project involves the replacement of existing steel lattice towers and high voltage power lines within PSE&G's existing right-of-way (ROW) corridor. The towers that were installed between 1927 and 1930. They will be replaced primarily with a Y-frame monopole structures and with some H-frame structures. The RPV transmission system is a fifty-mile long, roughly 150-foot-wide utility corridor. Segment 1 of the project, which is the subject of this NOI, runs from the Roseland switching station in Essex County, to the Branchburg switching station in Somerset County, and spans approximately 30 linear miles and 10 municipalities. Segment 1 will involve the replacement of the 162 lattice type transmission towers.

The project will be constructed entirely within PSE&G's existing utility ROW, excluding the use of off-ROW access roads. Approximately 3.303 acres of the ROW within Morris County is in the ADA and is also preserved farmland – the Kielblock farm. Of the 3.303 acres, 1.533 acres will be physically disturbed.

Access roads will be created by laying wood matting or by using a geotextile base layer with dense graded aggregate (DGA) distributed on top. PSE&G requested the ability to use either option in active farming areas as they both allow for a similar distribution of weight disbursement. Lattice tower footings will be removed to a depth of three feet below ground surface in farmland areas.

A PSE&G liaison will be assigned during the approval process phase and during the construction phase of the project. PSE&G standard practice is for a land agent to visit with the farmers along the ROW to explain the project and anticipated compensation formulas and disbursement. The project has a dedicated website, email, and hotline number to receive and respond to resident inquiries.

For safety and security reasons, all farming activities within the ROW will be suspended during construction activities. No other impacts are anticipated in the ADA during construction. Following construction, PSE&G anticipates returning ROW conditions within the ADA to the same or better than those that currently exist. PSE&G will work with farmers relating to restoration seed mixtures and application rates.

PSE&G will work with the Soil Conservation Districts throughout the project area to document minor changes to the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plans throughout construction.

On motion of member Thomson, seconded by member Ashley Myers, the Board members found that Segment 1 of PSE&G's Roseland-Pleasant Valley Overhead Transmission Project would not cause unreasonably adverse effects on the preserved farm, the ADA, or State agricultural preservation and development policies. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Galfo, Keller, and Thomson

Nay: None Abstain: None Recused: Davis

At this point, members of the PSE&G team left the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of member Keller, seconded by member Ashley Myers, the Board members approved the July 9, 2020 Open Session meeting minutes. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Galfo, Keller, Thomson and Davis

Nay: None Abstain: None

A Closed Session was not held during the July 9, 2020 meeting.

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

Aye: Ashley Myers, Galfo, Keller, Thomson and Davis

Nay: None Abstain: None

RETURN TO MEETING

The meeting reopened to the public at 8:15 p.m.

ACTIONS RESULTING FROM CLOSED SESSION

No actions were taken.

REPORT OF DIRECTOR & ATTORNEY

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

Paschal Farm, Mine Hill. Member Thomson informed the Board regarding a plan to build a

390-unit multifamily residential development on the 80-acre Paschal property. Mr. Barilla stated that the Planning Board had received information about the project and that he would share it with the Board.

September meeting date. Ms. Coyle proposed to change the date of the September meeting from the 3rd to the 10th. The Board members agreed to the change.

RIGHT TO FARM

There were no RTF matters to review.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to review.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to review.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Member Thomson provided an update regarding the 2020 Open Space application round, stating that nine applications had been submitted.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion of member Thomson, seconded by member Keller, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 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