

MINUTES
MORRIS COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
30 Schuyler Place, 2nd Floor, Morristown, New Jersey
March 14, 2019

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

Aimee Ashley Myers
Rick Desiderio
Gregory Keller
Harvey Ort
Jay Thomson

Members with an excused absence:

Thomas Galfo

Also in attendance:

Peter Nietzsche, RCE
Frank Pinto (departed at 7:48 pm)
Kenneth Campbell (departed at 7:48 pm)

Staff in attendance:

Christine Marion
Staci Santucci, Esq.
Katherine Coyle

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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, the Star Ledger and posted on the Morris County website.

NEW BUSINESS

At this point, member Thomson left the meeting room.

Alldian Farm, Washington Township: Application for Solar Facility.

Ms. Coyle directed the Board to the staff report, which outlined the statutory and regulatory framework for the review of an application to construct, install, and operate a solar energy generation facility on a preserved farm.

Mr. Pinto, on behalf of the farm owners, Mary and Donald Alldian, presented the application. Mr. and Mrs. Alldian wish to construct a solar energy generation facility on their preserved farm. The facility will provide power to the residential facility located on the non-severable exception area and any future agricultural structures built on the farm. The facility will directly reduce the farm's electric costs.

Ms. Coyle reviewed the eligibility criteria outlined in the regulations, discussed the information provided by the applicants and concluded that the application is complete pursuant to N.J.A.C. 2:76-24.5. Ms. Coyle further stated that the application meets the requirements of N.J.A.C. 2:76-24.1 et seq. and that staff recommends approval of the application.

On motion of member Ashley Myers, seconded by member Ort, the Board approved the application for the construction of a solar energy generation facility on the Alldian preserved farm. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Desiderio, Keller, Ort, and Davis

Nay: None Abstain: None

Mr. Pinto and Mr. Campbell departed at 7:48 pm

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of member Ashley Myers, seconded by member Desiderio, the Board members approved the January 10, 2019 meeting minutes. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Desiderio, Keller, Ort and Thomson

Nay: None Abstain: Davis

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

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

Nay: None Abstain: None

RETURN TO MEETING

The meeting reopened to the public at 8:11 p.m.

ACTIONS RESULTING FROM CLOSED SESSION

Windfall Farm, Washington Township. On motion of member Keller, seconded by member Ashley Myers, the Board directed staff to send a letter to Washington Township per the Board's discussion in Closed Session. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay: None Abstain: None

REPORT OF DIRECTOR & ATTORNEY

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

Ms. Santucci provided information regarding proposed legislation to allow for alternate members on CADBs.

Ms. Santucci and member Thomson discussed quorum requirements and the CADB Bylaws. Ms. Santucci stated that she would research the issue further.

RIGHT TO FARM

There was no RTF business.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

At this point, members Davis, Ashley Myers, and Ort left the meeting room.

Alstede Farms, Chester Township – complaint. Ms. Santucci and Ms. Coyle discussed with the Board the complaint filed by Mr. Asdal. A conference call with the SADC took place on March 6th. The SADC and CADB agreed to an exchange of files related to the preservation of the four Hideaway Farms. Another conference call will take place following the review of all documents and a site inspection.

At this point, members Davis, Ashley Myers, and Ort returned to the meeting room.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion of member Thomson, seconded by member Desiderio, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Coyle". The letters are cursive and fluid.

Katherine Coyle
Director