

MINUTES
MORRIS COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
April 8, 2021
(Held remotely via Webex)

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Davis at 7:31 p.m. Members present:

Aimee Ashley Myers
Frank Carrajat
Thomas Galfo
Gregory Keller
Harvey Ort
Jay Thomson

Also in attendance:

Commissioner Stephen Shaw
Peter Nitzsche, RCE
Cindy Roberts, SADC
Rachel DeFlumeri, SADC

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.

Ms. Coyle announced that the meeting was being held remotely via WebEx and was being recorded. Ms. Coyle provided instructions for the public to provide comments during the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of member Thomson, seconded by member Carrajat, the Board members approved the March 4, 2021 Open Session meeting minutes. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay: None Abstain: Galfo

On motion of member Thomson, seconded by member Keller, the Board members approved the March 4, 2021 Closed Session meeting minutes. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay: None Abstain: Galfo

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

REPORT OF DIRECTOR & ATTORNEY

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

Right to Farm Act Amendment – housing of equine-related farm employees. Ms. Coyle informed the Board regarding a recent amendment to the Right to Farm Act (RTFA) to extend Right to Farm (RTF) eligibility to year-round, full-time agricultural, equine laborers. This new legislation extends RTF protection eligibility only to the housing of "*full-time, year-round equine-related farm employees in the same building or facility as horses.*" The law explicitly *excludes* eligibility for the housing of migrant or seasonal employees/workers. This amendment is significant because, for the first time, the housing of "agricultural laborers" is eligible for RTF protection.

RIGHT TO FARM

Ort Farms, Washington Township: receipt of request for SSAMP. Ms. Santucci informed the Board that she is awaiting a determination from the Local Finance Board regarding potential board member conflicts of interest.

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.

At this point Ms. Roberts and Ms. DeFlumeri left the 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 Thomson, seconded by member Keller, the Board voted to conduct a Closed Session. A roll call vote was taken.

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

RETURN TO MEETING

The meeting reopened to the public at 8:19 p.m.

ACTIONS RESULTING FROM CLOSED SESSION

Post, Chester Township. On motion of member Keller, seconded by member Thomson, the Board authorized staff to send a letter to the new owners of Riamede farms as discussed during Closed Session. A roll call vote was taken.

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

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 Keller, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Katherine Coyle
Director