

MINUTES
MORRIS COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
June 3, 2021
(Held remotely via Webex)

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

Aimee Ashley Myers
Thomas Galfo
Gregory Keller
Jay Thomson

Members with an excused absence:

Frank Carrajat
Harvey Ort

Also in attendance:

Elena Gable, Heyer Gruel & Associates (left at 7:47 pm)

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 Keller, seconded by member Ashley Myers, the Board members approved the May 6, 2021 Open Session meeting minutes. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Keller, Thomson and Davis

Nay: None Abstain: Galfo

On motion of member Keller, seconded by member Ashley Myers, the Board members approved the May 6, 2021 Closed Session meeting minutes. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Keller, Thomson and Davis

Nay: None Abstain: Galfo

NEW BUSINESS

Preparation of Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan – Heyer, Gruel & Associates. Ms. Coyle introduced Ms. Elena Gable from Heyer, Gruel & Associates. HGA were retained by the County to draft an updated Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan. The Plan will provide an overview of agriculture in Morris County, along with mapping showing the Agriculture Development Areas, as well as project areas where the County has or will preserve farms in the future. It will also prioritize lands for preservation based on input from the public and from existing County planning documents. The Plan will allow the CADB to apply for grants from the SADC.

To gather feedback from the members of the CADB, the agricultural community, municipalities and the public, HGA will prepare questionnaire and surveys. The public survey will be posted on the County's website. The municipal survey will be sent to each municipality. The questionnaire for members of the CADB and the Board of Agriculture will be forwarded to Board members prior to the July 1, 2021 meeting.

Ms. Gable left the meeting at 7:47 pm.

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 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 8:24 p.m.

ACTIONS RESULTING FROM CLOSED SESSION

On motion of member Ort, seconded by member Ashley Myers, the Board agreed to make an offer to the owners of the Simon Farm as discussed during Closed Session. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Galfo, Keller, and Davis

Nay: Thomson Abstain: None

REPORT OF DIRECTOR & ATTORNEY

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

RC&D. Ms. Coyle informed the Board that she became a Board member of the RC&D Council.

SADC: draft soil protection standards. The Board discussed their concerns about the proposal. The Board of Agriculture had invited SADC staff to attend their June 8th meeting to present the draft soil protection standards. Members of the CADB have been invited to attend the Board of Agriculture meeting to hear the presentation. The CADB and the Board of Agriculture would then submit joint comments to the SADC.

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.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion of member Keller, seconded by member Ashley Myers, the meeting was adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Katherine Coyle, Director