

MINUTES
MORRIS COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
May 6, 2021
(Held remotely via Webex)

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Davis at 7:30 p.m. Members present:

Aimee Ashley Myers
Frank Carrajat
Gregory Keller
Harvey Ort
Jay Thomson

Members with an excused absence:

Thomas Galfo

Also in attendance:

Commissioner Stephen Shaw (joined at 8:00 pm)
Peter Nitzsche, RCE
Anthony Sposaro (departed at 7:50 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 Carrajat, the Board members approved the April 8, 2021 Open Session meeting minutes. A roll call vote was taken.
Aye: Ashley Myers, Carrajat, Keller, Ort, Thomson and Davis

Nay: None Abstain: None

On motion of member Keller, seconded by member Thomson, the Board members approved the April 8, 2021 Closed Session meeting minutes. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay: None Abstain: None

NEW BUSINESS

SADC: draft soil protection standards. Ms. Coyle informed the Board that the SADC had released the draft soil protection standards to all stakeholders for review and comment. Comments are due by June 18th. The draft document was forwarded to the Board prior to the meeting. Ms. Coyle provided the background information about the proposal.

Mr. Anthony Sposaro shared with the Board his concerns/questions about the proposal:

- Will the standards apply retroactively (to farms that are already preserved)?
- Could farmers be required to remove existing improvements?
- Will the new standards have a negative impact on enrollment in the Farmland Preservation Program?
- The standards should only apply prospectively. Farm owners should be allowed to keep existing improvements and the new restrictions should apply to new improvements.

The Board discussed their concerns about the proposal. Members of the Board of Agriculture agreed that they would invite SADC staff to attend their June meeting to present the draft soil protection standards. Members of the CADB will be invited to attend the Board of Agriculture meeting to hear the presentation (the SADC last presented the proposal to the CADB in 2019).

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

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

Nay: None Abstain: None

RETURN TO MEETING

The meeting reopened to the public at 8:17 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.

Preparation of Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan. Ms. Coyle informed the Board that a consultant was hired to draft the updated Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan.

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.

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 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Katherine Coyle
Director