

MINUTES
MORRIS COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
30 Schuyler Place, 2nd Floor, Morristown, New Jersey
December 12, 2019

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

Rick Desiderio
Thomas Galfo
Harvey Ort
Jay Thomson

Members with an excused absence:

Aimee Ashley Myers
Gregory Keller

Also in attendance:

Peter Nitzsche, Director, RCE
William Roehrich, Deputy Mayor, Township of Washington

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of member Galfo, seconded by member Ort, the Board members approved the November 21, 2019 Open Session meeting minutes. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Desiderio, Galfo, Ort, Thomson and Davis

Nay: None Abstain: None

On motion of member Galfo, seconded by member Ort, the Board members approved the November 21, 2019 Closed Session meeting minutes. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Desiderio, Galfo, Ort, Thomson and Davis
Nay: None Abstain: None

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

Aye: Desiderio, Galfo, Ort, Thomson and Davis
Nay: None Abstain: None

RETURN TO MEETING

The meeting reopened to the public at 8:02 p.m.

ACTIONS RESULTING FROM CLOSED SESSION

On motion of member Galfo, seconded by member Ort, the Board directed staff to inform Harding Township regarding a cost-share requirement for the Simon farm preservation as discussed during Closed Session. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Desiderio, Galfo, Ort, and Davis
Nay: Thomson Abstain: None

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

Aye: Desiderio, Galfo, Ort, Thomson and Davis
Nay: None Abstain: None

On motion of member Galfo, seconded by member Ort, the Board to send a letter to Chester Borough regarding the Loewensteiner Farm as discussed during Closed Session. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Desiderio, Galfo, 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.

Annual PIG Application. Ms. Coyle informed the Board that she was in the process of preparing the annual SADC PIG application. The PIG application is due mid-December.

Monitoring – Western Region. Ms. Coyle informed the Board that monitoring of the Western Region was in progress.

RIGHT TO FARM

There was no Right to Farm business to review.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to review.

OLD BUSINESS

SADC draft proposals – special occasion events on preserved farmland. Ms. Coyle presented to the Board draft comments regarding SOEs to be submitted to the SADC. The Board reviewed the comments. On motion of member Galfo, seconded by member Ort, the Board directed Ms. Coyle to submit them to the SADC. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Desiderio, Galfo, Ort, Thomson and Davis

Nay: None Abstain: None

NEW BUSINESS

At this point, Member Thomson left the meeting room.

Haggas Farm, Washington Twp. – application for solar energy generation facility. Ms. Coyle informed the Board that the owners of the farm had submitted an application for a solar energy generation facility to the SADC. The SADC had reviewed the application, found it complete and in compliance with the statute and regulations, and requested comments from the CADB. Ms. Coyle presented the application to the Board. On motion of member Galfo, seconded by member Ort, the Board directed Ms. Coyle to submit comments in support of the application to the SADC. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Desiderio, Galfo, Ort, and Davis

Nay: None Abstain: None Recused: Thomson

At this point, Member Thomson 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 Galfo, seconded by member Ort, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Coyle

Katherine Coyle
Director