

MINUTES
MORRIS COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
March 3, 2022
(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
Thomas Galfo
Harvey Ort
Jay Thomson

Also in attendance:

Peter Nitzsche, RCE
Timothy Willmott, 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 Ort, the Board members approved the February 3, 2022 Open Session meeting minutes. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Carrajat, Galfo, Ort, Thomson and Davis

Nay: None Abstain: Ashley Myers

On motion of member Thomson, seconded by member Ort, the Board members approved the February 3, 2022 Closed Session meeting minutes. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Carrajat, Galfo, Ort, Thomson and Davis

Nay: None Abstain: Ashley Myers

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no comments from the public.

RIGHT TO FARM

Resolution 2022-02: Backer Farm, Mendham Township (complaints).

Ms. Coyle presented the resolution, which memorialized the CADB's February 3, 2022 decision regarding complaints filed against Backer Farm. The draft resolution had been distributed prior to the meeting and posted on the CADB's website.

The following individuals provided comments:

George Koenig
Peter Banos
Stephen Dreskin
Terrill Doyle
Kimberly Hart

On motion of member Ort, seconded by member Galfo, the Board adopted Resolution 2022-02. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Ms. Coyle stated that a letter had been sent to Mendham Township requesting comments and recommendations regarding the Backer brewery proposal.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board acknowledged receipt of a letter from Mr. William Asdal dated February 17, 2022.

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

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

RETURN TO MEETING

The meeting reopened to the public at 8:30 p.m.

ACTIONS RESULTING FROM CLOSED SESSION

No actions were taken.

REPORT OF DIRECTOR & ATTORNEY

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

OLD BUSINESS

DRAFT Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan. Ms. Coyle stated that the draft Plan has been completed and that it would be forwarded to all municipalities and posted on the CADB's website for review and public comment.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Davis addressed the Board regarding the cancellation of the organic certification program by the NJ Department of Agriculture. The unexpected ending of the program has significant negative consequences for New Jersey's agricultural community. Producers are now facing the challenge of trying to start their certification process over with a new organization with short notice from the Department. On motion of member Ort, seconded by member Galfo, the Board agreed that a joint letter from the Board of Agriculture and the CADB would be sent to the Department of Agriculture and the State Board of Agriculture requesting reinstatement of the program. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay: None Abstain: None

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The following individual provided comments:

George Koenig

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion of member Thomson, seconded by member Ashley Myers, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Katherine Coyle
Director