

MINUTES
MORRIS COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
July 1, 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
Thomas Galfo
Gregory Keller
Harvey Ort
Jay Thomson

Also in attendance:

Commissioner Stephen Shaw
Peter Nitzsche, RCE
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 Thomson, seconded by member Keller, the Board members approved the June 4, 2021 Open Session meeting minutes. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Galfo, Keller, Thomson and Davis

Nay: None Abstain: Carrajat and Ort

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

Aye: Ashley Myers, Galfo, Keller, Thomson and Davis

Nay: None Abstain: Carrajat and Ort

NEW BUSINESS

Public Comment: Preparation of Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan. Ms. Elena Gable from Heyer, Gruel & Associates addressed the Board regarding the preparation of the 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 prepare questionnaires and surveys. The public survey was posted on the County's website. The municipal survey was sent to each municipality. The questionnaire for members of the CADB and the Board of Agriculture was forwarded to Board members prior to the July 1, 2021 meeting. Ms. Gable provided a summary of the responses received:

- 12 municipalities responded to the survey; and
- Over 200 members of the public completed the public survey posted on the County's website.

Ms. Gable proceeded to lead the Board's discussion, which included the following topics: agritourism and advertising, marketing and sale of agricultural products, development pressure, obstacles to preservation, conflicts between residential uses and agriculture, farm vehicle safety, Right to Farm process, emerging trends in agriculture, agricultural support services, pest and invasive species management, water supply, and targeting farms for preservation.

Once the draft Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan has been completed, it will be shared with the CADB, SADC, municipalities and the public. The Plan will be finalized after reviewing comments.

Ms. Gable left the meeting at 9:18 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 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 9:26 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.

SADC: draft soil protection standards. Ms. Coyle informed the Board that she had submitted to the SADC joint comments from the CADB and the Board of Agriculture.

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.

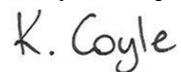
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Katherine Coyle, Director