

MINUTES
MORRIS COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
30 Schuyler Place, 2nd Floor, Morristown, New Jersey
January 10, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Ashley Myers at 7:30 p.m. Members present:

Rick Desiderio
Thomas Galfo
Gregory Keller
Harvey Ort
Jay Thomson

Members with an excused absence:

Dale Davis

Also in Attendance:

Peter Nietzsche, RCE

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

Vice-Chairman Ashley Myers 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 Daily Record and the Star Ledger.

BOARD REORGANIZATION

Election of Officers

Vice-Chairman Ashley Myers turned the meeting over to Ms. Coyle for the purpose of electing new officers. Ms. Coyle served as temporary Chairman and took nominations for the position of Chairman.

Chairman

On motion of member Thomson, seconded by member Keller, Mr. Davis was nominated for Chairman. There being no other nominations, a roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Desiderio, Galfo, Keller, Ort and Thomson
Nay: None Abstain: None

Mr. Davis was elected Chairman.

Vice-Chairman

On motion of member Thomson, seconded by member Galfo, Ms. Ashley Myers was nominated for Vice-Chairman. There being no other nominations a roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Desiderio, Galfo, Keller, Ort and Thomson
Nay: None Abstain: None

Ms. Ashley Myers was elected Vice-Chairman. Vice-Chairman Ashley Myers chaired the meeting from this point forward.

Secretary

On motion of member Keller, seconded by member Galfo, Mr. Ort was nominated for Secretary. There being no other nominations a roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Desiderio, Galfo, Keller and Thomson
Nay: None Abstain: Ort

Mr. Ort was elected Secretary.

Meeting Dates Resolution

On motion of member Ort, seconded by member Galfo, the Board members unanimously approved Resolution 2019-01, which established the time, date, place and agenda for the meetings of 2019 and January 2020. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Desiderio, Galfo, Keller, Ort and Thomson
Nay: None Abstain: None

Mission Statement

The Board members reviewed the Mission Statement. On motion of member Ort, seconded by member Keller, the Board agreed that no changes were needed. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Desiderio, Galfo, Keller, Ort and Thomson
Nay: None Abstain: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the December 13, 2018 meeting were not available.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

CLOSED SESSION #1

Pursuant to P.L. 1975 Ch. 231, the Open Public Meetings Act, Vice-Chairman Ashley Myers 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 Keller, the Board voted to conduct a Closed Session. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Desiderio, Galfo, Keller, Ort and Thomson
Nay: None Abstain: None

RETURN TO MEETING

The meeting reopened to the public at 8:22 p.m.

ACTIONS RESULTING FROM CLOSED SESSION

Trisuzzi Farm, Randolph Township. On motion of member Keller, seconded by member Ort, the Board directed staff to send a letter to the landowner per the Board's discussion in Closed Session. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Desiderio, Galfo, Keller, Ort and Thomson
Nay: None Abstain: None

Fredrickson Farm, Chester Township. On motion of member Ort, seconded by member Thomson, the Board directed staff to send a letter to the landowner per the Board's discussion in Closed Session. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Desiderio, Galfo, Keller, Ort and Thomson
Nay: None Abstain: None

Picozzi Farm, Harding Township. On motion of member Thomson, seconded by member Ort, the Board directed staff to send a letter to the landowner per the Board's discussion in Closed Session. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Desiderio, Galfo, Keller, Ort and Thomson
Nay: None Abstain: None

REPORT OF DIRECTOR & ATTORNEY

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

Monitoring: Western Region. Ms. Coyle informed the Board that monitoring of Western Region farms was completed in December. Reports were submitted to the SADC.

RIGHT TO FARM

Alstede Farms, Chester Township – Request for SSAMP. Ms. Santucci and Ms. Coyle informed the Board that the matter has been adjourned at the request of the farmer.

Alstede Farms, Chester Township – Complaint. Ms. Santucci and Ms. Coyle informed the Board that the matter has been adjourned at the request of the farmer.

CLOSED SESSION #2

Pursuant to P.L. 1975 Ch. 231, the Open Public Meetings Act, Vice-Chairman Ashley Myers 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 Thomson, the Board voted to conduct a Closed Session. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Desiderio, Galfo, Keller, Ort and Thomson

Nay: None Abstain: None

At this point, members Ashley Myers and Ort left the meeting room.

RETURN TO MEETING

The meeting reopened to the public at 8:44 p.m.

ACTIONS RESULTING FROM CLOSED SESSION

Alstede Farms, Chester Township. On motion of member Keller, seconded by member Galfo, the Board directed staff to request that the information previously requested from Chester Township be provided in a timely manner. If the information was not provided, the Board authorized Ms. Santucci to subpoena the Township's Tax Assessor. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Desiderio, Galfo, Keller and Thomson

Nay: None Abstain: None

At this point, members Ashley Myers and Ort returned to the meeting room.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to review.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to review.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2019-02: Rowe Farm, Mendham Borough: Preliminary Approval. On motion of member Ort, seconded by member Galfo, the Board approved Resolution 2019-02. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Desiderio, Galfo, Keller, Ort and Thomson
Nay: None Abstain: None

Resolution 2019-03: Godfrey (Byrne) Farm, Chester Township. On motion of member Thomson, seconded by member Ort, the Board approved Resolution 2019-03. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Desiderio, Galfo, Keller, Ort and Thomson
Nay: None Abstain: None

At this point, members Ashley Myers and Ort left the meeting room.

Resolution 2019-04: Lebensfreude, LLC, Washington Township Lebensfreude, LLC, Washington Township: Petition for Creation of an 8-Year Farmland Preservation Program. On motion of member Keller, seconded by member Galfo, the Board approved Resolution 2019-04. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Desiderio, Galfo, Keller and Thomson
Nay: None Abstain: None

At this point, members Ashley Myers and Ort returned to the meeting room.

CLOSED SESSION #3

Pursuant to P.L. 1975 Ch. 231, the Open Public Meetings Act, Vice-Chairman Ashley Myers 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 Thomson, the Board voted to conduct a Closed Session. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Desiderio, Galfo, Keller, Ort and Thomson
Nay: None Abstain: None

RETURN TO MEETING

The meeting reopened to the public at 9:22 p.m.

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 Ort, the meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Coyle

Katherine Coyle
Director