

**MINUTES**  
**MORRIS COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD**  
**January 7, 2021**  
(Held remotely via Webex)

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Davis at 7:34 p.m. Members present:

Aimee Ashley Myers  
Frank Carrajat  
Thomas Galfo  
Gregory Keller  
Harvey Ort  
Jay Thomson

Also in attendance:

Commissioner Stephen Shaw

Staff in attendance:

Joseph Barilla  
Staci Santucci, Esq.  
Katherine Coyle

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**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.

**BOARD REORGANIZATION**

**Election of Officers**

Chairman Davis turned the meeting over to Ms. Coyle for the purpose of electing new officers. Ms. Coyle served as temporary Chairperson and took nominations for the position of Chairperson.

*Chairperson*

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

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

Mr. Davis was elected Chairman. Chairman Davis chaired the meeting from this point forward.

#### *Vice-Chairperson*

On motion of member Thomson, seconded by member Carrajat, Ms. Ashley Myers was nominated for Vice-Chairwoman. There being no other nominations a roll call vote was taken.  
Aye: Ashley Myers, Carrajat, Galfo, Keller, Ort, Thomson and Davis  
Nay: None Abstain: None

Ms. Ashley Myers was elected Vice-Chairwoman.

#### *Secretary*

On motion of member Keller, seconded by member Thomson, Mr. Ort was nominated for Secretary. There being no other nominations a roll call vote was taken.  
Aye: Ashley Myers, Carrajat, Galfo, Keller, Ort, Thomson and Davis  
Nay: None Abstain: None

Mr. Ort was elected Secretary.

### **Meeting Dates Resolution**

On motion of member Keller, seconded by member Thomson, the Board members approved Resolution 2021-01, which established the time, date, place and agenda for the meetings of 2021 and January 2022. A roll call vote was taken.  
Aye: Ashley Myers, Carrajat, Galfo, Keller, Ort, Thomson and Davis  
Nay: None Abstain: None

### **Mission Statement**

The Board members reviewed the Mission Statement. On motion of member Ort, seconded by member Thomson, the Board agreed that no changes were needed. A roll call vote was taken.  
Aye: Ashley Myers, Carrajat, Galfo, Keller, Ort, Thomson and Davis  
Nay: None Abstain: None

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion of member Thomson, seconded by member Ashley Myers, the Board members approved the November 19, 2020 Open Session meeting minutes. A roll call vote was taken.  
Aye: Ashley Myers, Carrajat, Galfo, Ort, Thomson and Davis  
Nay: None Abstain: Keller

On motion of member Thomson, seconded by member Ashley Myers, the Board members approved the November 19, 2020 Closed Session meeting minutes. A roll call vote was taken.  
Aye: Ashley Myers, Carrajat, Galfo, Ort, Thomson and Davis

Nay: None    Abstain: Keller

## **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 Keller, seconded by member Ort, 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 7:59 p.m.

## **ACTIONS RESULTING FROM CLOSED SESSION**

*Simon, Harding Township.* On motion of member Thomson, seconded by member Ashley Myers, the Board directed staff to inform Harding Township regarding the Board's decision as discussed during Closed Session. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Carrajat, Galfo, Keller, 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.

*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**

There were no RTF matters to review.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence to review.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to review.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business to review.

## **OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

*NJ Agricultural Convention.* Chairman Davis informed the Board regarding two resolutions that the Board of Agriculture had endorsed to be added to the resolutions for the NJ Agricultural Convention. The Convention will be held in February. The resolutions are:

### 1. Alternative Route for CADB Applicants when Conflicts of Interest Exist

The resolution states that the delegates direct the SADC to create a consistent streamlined process for applicants to CADB's who cannot have their cases heard because of the lack of quorum due to conflicts of interest to have their cases heard in a different jurisdiction. This process should include simple consistent tests and guidelines to determine if conflicts of interest exist between applicants and members of the CADB.

### 2. FARMS II Commission

The resolution states that the delegates direct the State Board of Agriculture to commission a new committee, to be named the FARMS II Commission, to create a master plan for the future of the production agriculture industry in New Jersey for the next two decades. This commission will be charged with identifying the needs and challenges associated with maintaining an economically viable agricultural industry in the Garden State.

*M. Noon, Mt. Olive Township.* Ms. Ashley Myers inquired regarding the status of Mt. Olive Township's implementation of the plan prepared by NRCS for the Noon farm. Ms. Coyle stated that she would reach out to the farmer and the township to inquire regarding the status.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, on motion of member Thomson, seconded by member Ashley Myers, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Katherine Coyle  
Director