

MINUTES
MORRIS COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
October 7, 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
Gregory Keller
Jay Thomson

Members with an excused absence:

Thomas Galfo
Harvey Ort

Also in attendance:

Peter Nitzsche, RCE

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.

CORRESPONDENCE

Ms. Coyle read out loud a September 14, 2021 email from Ms. Bernadette Koenig sent to the CADB and the SADC entitled “Noise emanating from a Concert on a Farm with an application to create a 78 seat "tasting room" on a winding residential road in a town with no business district.”

Ms. Coyle informed the Board and the public that upon review of Ms. Koenig's email, the SADC and the CADB decided to gather more information about the event that took place at the farm on September 11th and that SADC and CADB staff would conduct a site visit in the near future.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The following individuals provided comments regarding the Backer Farm operation in Mendham Township:

Bernadette Koenig
Barry Kolton
George Koenig
Stephen Dreskin
Greg and Maria Moore
Kimerly Hart
Marian Koste
Melissa Rainis
David Rainis
Nancy Mermelstein
Richard Watson

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of member Keller, seconded by member Ashley Myers, the Board members approved the July 1, 2021 Open Session meeting minutes. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay: None Abstain: None

On motion of member Keller, seconded by member Ashley Myers, the Board members approved the July 1, 2021 Closed Session meeting minutes. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay: None Abstain: None

REPORT OF DIRECTOR & ATTORNEY

Monitoring – Western Region. Ms. Coyle informed the Board that staff were in the process of monitoring farms in Mt. Olive and Washington Townships.

Change of November and December meeting dates. Ms. Coyle informed that Board that the November and December meeting dates needed to be rescheduled because Construction Board of Appeals and Planning Board meetings are schedule for the same time and Ms. Santucci represents all three Boards. The Board agreed to change the November meeting date to the 17th and the December date to the 9th.

RIGHT TO FARM

Ort Farms, Washington Township: receipt of request for SSAMP (status). Ms. Santucci informed the Board that she had received determinations from the Local Finance Board regarding several Board members' potential conflicts, but, in light of new information provided by one member, she is still awaiting the LFB's determination regarding that member's potential conflict.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to review.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2021-02: Dietz Farm, Chester Township - Final Approval. On motion of member Keller, seconded by member Ashley Myers, the Board approved Resolution 2021-02. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Keller, Thomson and Davis

Nay: None Abstain: None Recused: Carrajat

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. George Koenig provided additional comments regarding the Backer Farm operation in Mendham Township.

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, Keller, Thomson and Davis

Nay: None Abstain: None

RETURN TO MEETING

The meeting reopened to the public at 8:53 p.m.

ACTIONS RESULTING FROM CLOSED SESSION

Gargiulo, Long Hill Township. On motion of member Thomson, seconded by member Ashley Myers, the Board directed staff to inform the landowner regarding the Board's discussion during Closed Session. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay: None Abstain: None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion of member Thomson, seconded by member Ashley Myers, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Coyle

Katherine Coyle
Director