

MINUTES
MORRIS COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
August 11, 2022
(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
Conor Evans (departed at 7:50 pm)
Thomas Galfo
Harvey Ort
Jay Thomson

Also in attendance:

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 Morris County Board of County Commissioners, 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.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no comments from the public.

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

RIGHT TO FARM

Ort Farms, Washington Township: request for SSAMP.

Ms. Coyle presented a Staff Report, which addressed the Right to Farm SSAMP Process, commercial farm qualifications, and the following staff comments:

1. Staff recommends that the Morris CADB should certify the Ort Farms operation as a “commercial farm” as defined in the RTF Act and determine that the activities proposed in the SSAMP Application are included in one or more of the permitted activities set forth in the Act.
2. Staff further recommends that the Morris CADB should proceed to develop a SSAMP for the operation.
3. Morris County Division of Planning and Preservation staff should develop a “SSAMP Checklist” to assist the Morris CADB with their review of the application. The Checklist should be presented to the Morris CADB for approval at a subsequent meeting.
4. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 2:76-2.3(i), if the Morris CADB determines that the application and checklist items are complete, then the Morris CADB shall hold a public hearing in accordance with the hearing procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 2:76-2.8.

On motion of member Thomson, seconded by member Galfo, the Board agreed that the Ort Farms operation is a “commercial farm” as defined in the RTF Act, that the activities proposed in the SSAMP Application are included in one or more of the permitted activities set forth in the Act, and that Morris County Division of Planning and Preservation staff should develop a “SSAMP Checklist” to assist the Morris CADB with their review of the application. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Carrajat, Evans, Galfo, and Thomson

Nay: None Abstain: None Recused: Ashley Myers, Davis, and Ort

At this point, members Ashley Myers, Davis and Ort re-joined the meeting.

At this point, member Evans left the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of member Galfo, seconded by member Ashley Myers, the Board members approved the July 7, 2022 Open Session meeting minutes. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Galfo, Thomson and Davis

Nay: None Abstain: Carrajat and Ort

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 Ashley Myers, 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 8:06 p.m.

ACTIONS RESULTING FROM CLOSED SESSION

Gargiulo, Long Hill Township. On motion of member Thomson, seconded by member Carrajat, the Board directed staff to draft a preliminary approval resolution per the Board's discussion during Closed Session. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay: None Abstain: None

REPORT OF DIRECTOR & ATTORNEY

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

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no old business.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no comments from the public.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion of member Thomson, seconded by member Galfo, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Coyle". The letters are cursive and fluid.

Katherine Coyle
Director