

MINUTES
MORRIS COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
June 1, 2023
(Held remotely via Webex)

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Davis at 7:31 p.m. Members present:

Aimee Ashley Myers
Frank Carrajat
Conor Evans
Thomas Galfo
Jay Thomson

Members with an excused absence:

Harvey Ort

Also in attendance:

Commissioner Stephen Shaw
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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of member Thomson, seconded by member Galfo, the Board members approved the May 4, 2023 Open Session meeting minutes. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay: None Abstain: None

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 Galfo, the Board voted to conduct a Closed Session. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay: None Abstain: None

RETURN TO MEETING

The meeting reopened to the public at 7:40 p.m.

At this point, Chairman Davis turned the meeting over to Ms. Coyle.

Chairman Davis and Ms. Ashley Myers left the meeting.

ACTIONS RESULTING FROM CLOSED SESSION

No actions were taken.

REPORT OF DIRECTOR & ATTORNEY

Annual Monitoring. Ms. Coyle informed the Board that monitoring of farms in the Central had concluded and that monitoring of the N-E Region would commence mid-June.

Legislative Updates. There were no legislative updates were sent to the Board via email prior to the meeting.

RIGHT TO FARM

Ort Farms, Washington Township: request for SSAMP.

Anthony Sposaro, Esq., on behalf of his client, Ort Farms, presented the application to the CADB. He presented his witnesses, Ms. Nicole Ort Moke and Mr. Matthew Fox.

Ms. Santucci swore in Ms. Ort Moke. Ms. Ort Moke provide information about the farming

operation and explained the need for a new farm market.

Public Comments:

No public comments were submitted to the CADB prior to the Public Hearing.

Ms. Laura Akin provided comments in support of the application.

Ms. Coyle presented the Staff Report, which included the history of the application, the Township's comments regarding the application (including confirmation that the site plan meets municipal requirements), and staff comments and recommendations.

On motion of member Thomson, seconded by member Galfo, the Board approved the Ort Farms application for a SSAMP with the following conditions:

1. the construction of the farm market and parking areas shall comply with municipal standards and all relevant federal and State statutes, rules and regulations; and
2. the construction and operation of the farm market and parking areas shall comply with N.J.A.C. 2:76-2A.13 Agricultural Management Practice for On-Farm Direct Marketing Facilities, Activities, and Events.

The Board directed staff to draft a resolution memorializing the Board's decision. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Carrajat, Evans, Galfo and Thomson

Nay: None Abstain: None

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

Mr. Tim Willmott provided an update on SADC matters:

SADC New Member: The SADC welcomed a newly appointed Public Member – Tiffany Bohlin. Ms. Bohlin has a diverse background in transportation engineering and agriculture. Ms. Bohlin replaces James Waltman, the Executive Director of the Watershed Institute, as one of the two public members of the SADC.

SOE Update: SADC will make an SOE presentation to north jersey CADB members and administrators at Somerset County on June 14th at 4pm. They will also be hosting a webinar for preserved landowners on June 5th at 7pm. Please contact Dave Kimmel for details.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion of member Thomson, seconded by member Galfo, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K. Coyle". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Katherine Coyle
Director