

MINUTES
MORRIS COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
January 5, 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
Thomas Galfo
Harvey Ort (arrived at 8:05 p.m.)
Jay Thomson

Members with an excused absence:

Conor Evans

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.

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 Ashley Myers, seconded by member Galfo, Mr. Davis was nominated for Chairman. There being no other nominations, a roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Carrajat, Galfo and Thomson

Nay: None Abstain: Davis

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

Vice-Chairperson

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

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

Nay: None Abstain: None

Mr. Ort was elected Vice-Chairman.

Secretary

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

Aye: Carrajat, Galfo, Thomson and Davis

Nay: None Abstain: Ashley Myers

Ms. Ashley Myers was elected Secretary.

Mission Statement

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

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

Nay: None Abstain: None

Meeting Dates Resolution

On motion of member Ashley Myers, seconded by member Galfo, the Board members approved Resolution 2023-01, which established the time, date, place and agenda for the meetings of 2023 and January 2024. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay: None Abstain: None

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Peter Banos submitted comments regarding the Backer Farm SSAMP application.

Mr. Tim Willmott provided an update on SADC matters: Mr. Charles Roohr had been promoted, the SADC opined that cannabis is an agricultural product, but it is not eligible for RTF

protections, and the Soil Protection Standards regulations were being reviewed by a subcommittee.

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, Galfo, Thomson and Davis

Nay: None Abstain: None

RETURN TO MEETING

The meeting reopened to the public at 7:58 p.m.

At this point, member Ort joined the meeting.

ACTIONS RESULTING FROM CLOSED SESSION

No actions were taken.

REPORT OF DIRECTOR & ATTORNEY

Legislative Updates. Legislative updates were sent to the Board via email prior to the meeting. The members discussed the bills that would create alternate members on the CADBs and allow for RTF complaint matters to be heard in adjoining counties. It was agreed that joint letters would be sent by the CADB and the Board of Agriculture to all bill sponsors.

Annual PIG Application. Ms. Coyle informed the members that she had submitted the annual PIG application to the SADC.

Monitoring – Western Region. Ms. Coyle informed the members that staff had concluded the monitoring of Western Region farms.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2023-02: Haddock (Rienau) Farm, Mendham Borough. On motion of member Ashely Myers, seconded by member Galfo, the Board adopted Resolution 2023-02. A roll call vote was taken.

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

Nay: None Abstain: None

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Frank Pinto provided an update regarding the Special Occasion Events bill.

Mr. Peter Banos asked staff to provide information regarding the Rienau Farm resolution. Ms. Coyle provided an explanation.

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

RIGHT TO FARM

Ort Farms, Washington Township: request for SSAMP (status). Ms. Coyle provided the status of the application and informed the Board that the Township of Washington had submitted comments regarding the application. The comments were being reviewed by County staff.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion of member Thomson, seconded by member Carrajat, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Katherine Coyle
Director

