

Minutes of the March 25, 2019
Somerset County Agriculture Development Board
Somerset County Administration Building
20 Grove Street, Somerville, NJ
3rd. Fl. Freeholder's Meeting Room

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the March 25, 2019 Somerset County Agriculture Development Board (CADB) Meeting began at 8:00 AM at the Somerset County Administration Building, 20 Grove Street, Somerville, NJ in the 3rd Floor Freeholder's Conference Room.

Members in Attendance

Mark Kirby, Chairman
W. Peter Staats, Vice Chairman
J. Johnson, Secretary
Richard Norz
Edward Seidel
Laura DePrado

Somerset County Staff

Walter Lane, Director, Planning
Tony McCracken, Assistant Dir., Planning
Kate Katzer, Principal Planner, Planning
Cathy Bunting, Admin. Assistant, Planning
Angela Jupin, Deputy County Counsel

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2019 meeting was made by Laura DePrado and was seconded by Ed Seidel. Richard Norz from the vote and the motion was passed.

There was no public comment.

I-1) Somerset County Preservation Plan – Update

The Board was informed that Planning Staff have now sent comments to the consultant working on the preservation plan and that there will be a conference call soon to discuss the next steps.

I-2) SADC Meeting – Update

Amy Mandelbaum was unable to attend the meeting. Kate Katzer informed the Board that she would email them the update from Ms. Mandelbaum.

I-3) County/State Boards of Agriculture

County: There was no update

State: Richard Norz explained that the governor has signed off on last year's nominee and a replacement nominee, along with two other new members to be appointed to the State Board of Agriculture. He explained that the next step is to be approved by the Senate Judiciary Committee and then the Senate.

I-4) Staff Comments

The Annual Report Draft along with a brochure regarding the report was shared and reviewed by the Board.

Ms. Katzer also stated that staff recently met with the SADC where they gave them an overview of their progress on the Preservation Plan. Walter Lane suggested regular meetings with SADC ensuring they are kept up to date on the CADB's agenda and applications.

D-1) Potential Projects

Ms. Katzer explained that she directed a potential applicant to Franklin Township for preservation because the property consisted of less than 10 acres. She also referred the applicant to Thomas Boccino from Open Space and Thomas D'Amico, Historic Sites Coordinator from the Planning Division because of a historic house existing on the property.

D-2) Other Business

Ms. Katzer explained that she was contacted by Somerset Patriots who expressed interest in partnering with the SCADB to hold an agriculture event at the ball field. Richard Norz then added that he also has been contacted and that he had participated in an event with them in the past. He explained that he did not find it to be worth it for the farmer. Peter Staats also agreed and stated that the idea sounds better for the Board of Agriculture to handle.

Ms. Katzer suggested having someone from the Somerset Patriots attend the next CADB meeting.

D-3) Bylaw Update from 2/25/2019

A motion to accept the changes to the Bylaws that were reviewed on February 25, 2019 was made by Peter Staats and was seconded by Laura DePrado. The motion was passed and carried.

D-4) National Agriculture Day 2019

The Board discussed the recent National Ag Day events. Mr. Katzer explained that it was an overall success and there has been interest expressed to have more events in 2020 and that she is already collaborating with organizations to do so.

The Board also discussed possible ideas for future events.

Information regarding Horticulture Therapy Week was also included in the Board packets.

D-5) Doyle (Hillsborough)

This item was discussed in Closed Session.

D-6) Grande (Branchburg)

Ms. Katzer explained that the PIG Subcommittee recently met to review the Grande applications and recommended that the CADB consider it for preservation. The Board agreed to discuss the application in closed session.

D-7) Dorn (Neshanic Station)

Ms. Katzer explained that the PIG Subcommittee recently met to review the Dorn application and recommended that the CADB consider it for preservation. The Board agreed to discuss the application in closed session.

D-8) Gund Farm (Franklin)

Ms. Katzer explained that she has received the drafted closing documents for the Gund Farm. They are working with Engineering to send out RFPs for surveyors and hope to have them scheduled within the next week or two.

D-9) Closed Session

A motion to enter closed session was made by Laura DePrado and was seconded by Richard Norz the motion was passed and the Board entered closed session.

Walter Lane was not present for any discussions regarding Mr. Patel and his property.

A motion to exit closed session was made by Peter Staats and was seconded by Laura DePrado. The motion was passed and the regular portion of the CADB Meeting resumed.

D-10) Results and Actions from Closed Session

Doyle: Laura DePrado made a motion to send a letter to the Doyles' stating that the property should be appraised in its existing state. The motion was seconded by Ed Seidel and was passed and carried.

Chubb/Ace Farm: Peter Staats made a motion to encourage further evaluation of the cost share by the County to fund the remaining amount of the Chubb/Ace property and to move forward to obtain Freeholder approval. The motion was seconded by Laura DePrado and was passed and carried.

Grande: A motion to move forward with Green Light approval was made by Peter Staats and was seconded by Ed Seidel. The motion was passed and carried.

Dorn: The Board agreed to wait to receive more information along with maps before making any decisions.

Patel: The Board agreed to send a letter to Mr. Patel advising him to clear up the violations on his property.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Richard Norz and seconded by Laura DePrado. The motion was passed and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by,

J. Johnson
Secretary/Treasurer