

Minutes of the April 22, 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 April 22, 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 W. Kirby, Chairman
W. Peter Staats, Vice-Chairman
J. Johnson, Secretary
Edward Seidel
Laura DePrado

Members Absent

Richard Norz

Somerset County Staff

Walter Lane, Director, Planning Division
Anthony McCracken, Vice Director, Planning Division
Kate Katzer, Principal Planner
Cathy Bunting, Administrative Assistant
Tom Boccino, SC Park Commission
Angela Jupin, County Counsel

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the March 25, 2019 meeting minutes was made by Peter Staats and was seconded by Laura DePrado. The motion was passed and carried.

There was no public comment.

I-1) Somerset County Preservation Plan – Update

Kate Katzer informed the Board that all draft chapters of the Somerset County Plan are due by May 1, 2019. She stated that she had received three draft chapters already that she will be reviewing and commenting on. She explained that staff established a schedule with the consultants in hopes that by the end of the year they can move toward adoption. She explained that they aim to have material for the Board's review by November of 2019 and that the Steering Committee would meet again in June.

I-3) County/State Boards of Agriculture

State: Ed Seidel updated the Board on the affairs of the State Board of Agriculture. He explained that the Board has been looking into details of selling raw milk in the state.

County: Ed explained that the deer count is lower and the use of cross bows to hunt is still popular, and that the Farm Bureau is currently still using drones to count deer. He explained that they recently put out a survey and that 70% of individuals that participated voted for hunting on public grounds.

I-4) Staff Comments

Ms. Katzer explained that staff is continuing to work with the property owners of the Grande property on finalizing the placement of the farmland easement. She stated that once that was complete the application would be sent to the SADC for their review.

I-2) SADC Meeting – Update

Amy Mandelbaum attended the meeting and updated the Board on the most recent SADC meeting. She explained that the County and Municipal PIG properties were progressing well. She also explained that the SADC has continued holding new and beginning workshops for farmers as well as continuing outreach efforts.

She explained that Bill S2920 is currently moving through the legislature.

D-1) Potential Projects

Dorne: Maps and paperwork that Richard Norz requested at the last meeting were provided. The Board opted to discuss the property in Closed Session.

D-2) Other Business

The Board was informed that their annual Financial Disclosure Forms will be due by the end of April.

D-3) Grande (Branchburg)

This property was discussed during the Staff Comments section.

D-4) Dorn (Neshanic Station)

Two maps were provided for the Board's review. They discussed in Closed Session.

D-5) Gund Farm (Franklin)

The Board was informed that a surveyor has been selected for the Gund Property.

D-6) Closed Session

A motion to enter closed session was made by Laura DePrado and was seconded by Peter Staats. The motion was passed and the Board entered Closed Session.

Walter Lane was not present for any discussions regarding the Naturally Nurturing property.

A motion to exit Closed Session was made by Laura DePrado. The motion was passed and the regular portion of the meeting resumed.

D-7) Results and Actions from Closed Session

Ace/Chubb: A motion to approve the drafted resolution allowing staff to move forward with the Chubb/Ace application was made by Peter Staats and was seconded by Laura DePrado. The motion was passed and carried.

Dorne: A motion to send the Dorne application to the SADC for Green Light Approval was made by Ed Seidel and was seconded by Laura DePrado. **Discussion:** Peter Staats expressed being in favor of sending the application to the SADC however is concerned with the funding amount. Kate Katzer stated that the County does fund less than a contractor would. The motion was passed and carried.

D-8) Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Peter Staats and was seconded by Laura DePrado. The motion was passed and carried and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by,

J. Johnson
Secretary/Treasurer