

Minutes of the July 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 July 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 Kirby, Chairman
W. Peter Staats, Vice Chairman
Richard Norz
J. Johnson, Secretary
Edward Seidel

Members Absent

Laura DePrado

Somerset County Staff

Walter Lane, Dir., Planning Division
Anthony McCracken, Asst. Dir., Planning Div.
Kate Katzer, Principle Planner
Cathy Bunting, Admin. Assistant, Planning Div.

Public

Amy Mandelbaum, SADC
Dave Marek, SC Patriots

Approval of Minutes

Richard Norz informed staff that his name was incorrectly omitted from the June CADB Minutes. A motion to approve the minutes with the change was made by Richard Norz and was seconded by Peter Staats. The motion was passed and carried.

Public Comment

Dave Marek from the Somerset County Patriots attended the meeting to discuss plans for the "Garden State Ag Night" on August 15, 2019 at the Patriots Ballpark. Mr. Marek explained plans for a petting zoo, farmer's market tables, and farm equipment displays.

He explained that he was seeking direction from the CADB. The Board agreed to have a table representing the CADB at the event and also would handout materials about it at the upcoming Somerset County 4-H fair. They also suggested speaking with the NJ Farm Bureau and the Somerset County Board of Agriculture.

I-2) Somerset County Preservation Plan – Update

Walter Lane informed the Board that a public meeting for the Somerset County Preservation Plan was held on June 26, 2019. He explained that staff has received ten written comments throughout the comment period and that GIS staff is continuing to work on the data and mapping.

Richard Norz again spoke that wildlife control and noxious weeds are serious issues and should be addressed in the plan. The Board discussed the issue stating that fields should need to be mowed off by June 15th and that management practices need to be put in place.

Staff indicated that their concern was discussed previously and will be given attention in the final plan. A motion for staff to summarize the discussion and submit the comments for the Somerset County Preservation Plan was made by Richard Norz and was seconded by Ed Seidel. The motion was passed and carried.

Kate explained that she will have the summary available for the Board's review for the next meeting.

I-3) SADC Meeting Update

Amy Mandelbaum attended the meeting and provided the Board with an update from the last SADC Meeting. She reviewed the Somerset County properties that are currently under review and shared the monthly newsletter.

I-4) County/State Boards of Agriculture

County: The Board was informed that the annual Agriculture Picnic was going to be held on July 28, 2019.

State: The Board was informed that the next state Board of Agriculture meeting is to be held on July 24, 2019. Richard Norz also explained that there are two members coming off the Board and there will be two new members appointed.

I-5) 4-H Fair

Plans for the upcoming 2019 4-H fair were discussed.

I-6) Staff Comments

There were no staff comments.

D-1) Potential Projects

Kate Katzer informed the Board that staff met with owners of the Montefusco Farm. She explained that there has not yet been an application submitted and that they only discussed potential options.

She explained that the property is a 20.35 acre property located in Warren Township. She reviewed the property and shared a map of the parcel with the Board.

D-2) Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

D-3) Doyle (Hillsborough)

Staff informed the Board that the appraisals for the Doyle properties have been received from the appraisers and sent to the SADC.

D-4) Dorn (Neshanic Station)

Staff informed the Board that they continue to work with the SADC for green light approval on the Dorn property.

D-5) Gund Farm

Staff informed the Board that the Gund application was on the SADC agenda for final approval on June 25, 2019.

D-6) Harms (Bedminster)

Staff informed the Board that there are plans for a shed being placed on the Harms property. The Board was provided with information in their packets and they agreed to discuss in closed session.

D-7) Closed Session

A motion to enter Closed Session was made by Peter Staats and was seconded by Ed Seidel. The motion was passed and carried and the Board entered Closed Session.

Jay Johnson was not present during any discussions regarding Hunter Farms and Walter Lane was not present during any discussions regarding the Patel Property.

A motion to exit Closed Session was made by Peter Staats and was seconded by J. Johnson. The motion was passed and the regular portion of the CADB meeting resumed.

D-8) Results and Actions from Closed Session

There was no action taken from discussions from Closed Session.

D-9) Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Richard Norz and was seconded by J. Johnson. The motion was passed and carried and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by,

J. Johnson
Secretary/Treasurer