

Minutes of the August 26, 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 August 26, 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
Ed Seidel
Richard Norz
Ed Seidel
Laura DePrado

Members Absent

J. Johnson, Secretary/Treasurer

Somerset County Staff

Anthony McCracken, Assistant Director, Planning Division
Kate Katzer, Principal Planner, Planning Division
Cathy Bunting, Administrative Assistant, Planning Division
Tom Boccino, Somerset County Park Commission
Angela Jupin, Deputy County Counsel

Public

Amy Mandelbaum, SADC

Approval of Minutes

The Board identified a typo in the July CADB meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes with the correction was made by Peter Staats and was seconded by Richard Norz. The motion was passed and carried.

There was no public comment.

D-1) Potential Projects

There were no projects to discuss.

D-2) Other Business

Kate Katzer explained that staff has been working on six year plan for education and outreach for future National Agriculture Days. She reviewed the plans with the Board as follows;

- Adding more planter boxes
- History of Agriculture park theme – Somerville Library
 - S shaped Box, timeline of history of Somerville, pictures and grid on top
 - Wheelchair/ADA accessible, textures included
 - Victory Garden-War/Industrial period garden box. Partnering with local veterans for artwork.
 - Native American box. Partnering with local Native American groups for artwork.

Ms. Katzer explained that approval has already been given from the library and the town administrator, and that if CADB also approves staff will move forward with the idea. She explained that Tom Boccino from Engineering will be assisting with creating the layout. It will have an interactive theme, and include a touch garden for citizens to further interact with.

She also explained that the Cultural & Heritage Commission will be funding pieces of the project and that grant money would be sought for the design and construction of the public space. She will be reaching out to the VoTech and 4-H groups for collaboration with the project.

The Board had no objections to the plans.

D-3) Doyle (Hillsborough)

Ms. Katzer informed the Board that she had received an email from the SADC reviewer, that he had received the paperwork to begin his full review.

D-4) Gund Farm (Franklin)

The Board was informed that the SADC has everything needed to close for the Gund property and it should close in approximately two weeks, if everything goes as planned.

D-5) Chubb/Ace Farm (Bedminster)

The Board was informed that staff is working to finalize the last details and they are expected to close in approximately a month.

D-6) Durling Property (Hillsborough)

Ms. Katzer explained that she has sent a letter informing the owners of the Durling property that staff will be on the property on August 26, 2019. She explained that they received complaints that the pond water level on the property was low and had large amounts of vegetation growing in and around the pond. A neighbor is concerned it will negatively affect their property.

D-7) Closed Session

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

A motion to exit closed session was made by Laura DePrado and was seconded by Ed Seidel. The motion was passed and carried and the regular portion of the CADB meeting resumed.

D-8) Results and Actions from Closed Session

Mueller: Laura DePrado made a motion to have County Counsel send a response to Mr. Mueller in regard to his most recent communication. County Counsel will be sending a letter stating that more information is needed. The motion was seconded by Peter Staats and it was passed and carried.

I-1) Somerset County Preservation Plan – Update

Ms. Katzer updated the Board on the progress of the Somerset County Preservation Plan. She explained that staff is continuing to review the rewritten chapters, improve the mapping data, correct errors, and develop interactive mapping. She informed the Board there would a Steering Committee meeting within the next couple of months.

I-2) SADC Meeting – Update

Amy Mandelbaum attended the meeting and updated the Board on the events of the State Agriculture Development Committee. She informed the following;

- No August meeting
- Currently 11 projects in Somerset County
 - 2 Non profits
 - 5 Municipal PIGS
 - 4 County
- Appropriations for next fiscal year will be discussed during September meeting.
- County PIGS will not have as many base grants awarded however, more funding available in the competitive pot.
- Municipalities will also have opportunity for their own competitive funding
- There have been ongoing discussions regarding soil protection
- Offering cost share grants available. She will provide more information to the Board

I-3) County/State Boards of Agriculture

County: No Report

State: The Board was informed that the next State Board of Agriculture meeting would be held on Wednesday August 28, 2019.

I-4) 4-H Fair

The events of the most recent 4-H fair were discussed. Ms. Katzer explained that it was an overall success.

I-5) Patriots Ag Night

The Board discussed the recent Ag night at the Somerset County Patriots ballpark. Ms. Katzer explained their feedback was requested to improve future Ag events at the ballfield.

I-6) Monitoring

Ms. Katzer explained that she has begun the process for annual monitoring. She stated that she will email the Board a tentative schedule so they can inform her of their availability.

I-7) Staff Comments

There were no staff comments.

D-9) Adjournment

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,

J. Johnson
Secretary/Treasurer