Minutes of the September 23, 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 September 23, 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 Ricard Norz Edward Seidel

Members Absent

J. Johnson, Secretary/Treasurer Laura DePrado

Somerset County Staff

Walter Lane, Director-SC Planning Division
Anthony McCracken, Assistant Director-SC Planning Division
Katelyn Katzer, Principal Planner-SC Planning Division
Angela Jupin, SC Deputy County Counsel
Tom Boccino, SC Park Commission

Public

Amy Mandelbaum, SADC

Approval of Minutes

No Public Comment

I-1) Somerset County Preservation Plan – Update:

I-3) County/State Boards of Agriculture – Update

State: The Board was informed that the State Board of Agriculture would be meeting on September 25, 2019 and that director Susan Payne would be presenting on soil disturbance.

County: There was no update for the County Board of Agriculture.

I-4) Monitoring

A schedule and a sign-up sheet for 2019 annual inspections were distributed to the Board.

I-5) Staff Comments

Katelyn Katzer informed the Board that if they approved staff would be mailing out postcards to target farms informing them of the preservation option. She shared the postcards with the Board and there were no objections.

1-2) SADC Meeting Update

Amy Mandelbaum from the SADC informed the Board that they are currently working on 4 County PIGS, 5 Municipal PIGS, and 2 Non-Profits in Somerset County. She explained that the next SADC meeting would be held on September 26, 2019 and that soil protection, special occasion events, and the budget would be discussed.

D-1) Potential Projects

There were no potential projects to discuss.

D-2) Other Business

There was no other business to discuss.

D-3) Gund Farm (Franklin)

Ms. Katzer informed the Board that Somerset County staff and the SADC are currently working to finalize items before closing on the Gund property and that they are hoping to close soon.

D-4) Chubb/Ace Farm (Bedminster)

D-5) Closed Session

A motion to enter closed session was made by Peter Staats and was seconded by Edward Seidel. The motion was passed and the Board entered closed session.

Walter Lane was not present during any discussions regarding the Patel property.

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

D-6) Results and Actions from Closed Session

Hunter Farms (Montgomery): Richard Norz made a motion to authorize staff to request a letter form the Somerset County Engineering Department regarding their storm water findings on the Hunter property. The motion was seconded by Ed Seidel and the motion was passed and carried.

Richard Norz made a motion to authorize staff to request more information from the complainants in the Hunter Farms RTF matter regarding noise, garbage, and farm equipment. The motion was seconded by Ed Seidel and the motion was passed and carried.

Richard Norz made a motion to authorize staff to send a letter to the Hunter Farm representative, after the next SADC meeting, regarding gate access and with the approval of Chairman Mark Kirby. The motion was seconded by Peter Staats and was passed and carried.

Doyle Farm (Hillsborough): Richard Norz made a motion to authorize staff to send a letter to Mr. and Mrs. Doyle asking who their main contact is for their application. The motion was seconded by Ed Seidel and the motion was passed and carried.

Other Business

Richard Norz suggested inviting Susan Payne to a Right to Farm Committee meeting to discuss issues that the CADB are having working with the SADC.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Peter Staats and was seconded by Ed Seidel. The motion was passed and carried and the meeting as adjourned.

J. Johnson
Secretary/Treasurer