

Minutes of the October 28, 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 October 28, 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, SC Planning Division
Tony McCracken, Assistant Director, SC Planning Division
Katelyn Katzer, Principal Planner, SC Planning Division
Catherine Bunting, Administrative Assistant, SC Planning Div.
Thomas Boccino, SC Park Commission
Angela Jupin, SC Deputy County Counsel

Public

Amy Mandelbaum, SADC
Susan Payne, SADC
Jeff Everett, SADC
Debbie Norz, Hillsborough Farm Owner
David Everett, Hillsborough Farm Owner
Sam Conard, Hillsborough Farm Owner
John Lima, Hillsborough Farm Owner

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the September CADB meeting minutes was made by Richard Norz and was seconded by Laura DePrado. The motion was passed and carried.

I-1) Somerset County Preservation Plan – Update

Kate Katzer informed the Board that staff is currently working on making changes to the draft chapters and that the layout should be complete within a week.

I-2) SADC Meeting-Update

Amy Mandelbaum from the SADC explained that the State is currently working on two acquisitions that are nearing closing. She shared the monthly report with the Board and informed them that extra funding for the Municipal PIGS has now started being distributed.

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

County: The Board was informed that the County Board of Agriculture’s dinner will be held on November 8, 2019 at 6 P.M. at the Landing in Hillsborough.

State: No Update

I-4) Monitoring Update

Ms. Katzer explained that the 2019 annual inspections were almost complete, there were very few violations and that the Somerset intern, Gisela Chavarria, is currently working on compiling the violation information for the Board.

I-5) Staff Comments

Ms. Katzer stated that there were two agricultural trading cards used in the 2019 Weekend Journey through the Past event, she shared them with the Board. She also informed them that Vice Chairman Peter Staats provided agriculture items and pictures to be displayed in the 3rd floor art cases. Laura DePrado requested cards for the Board of Agriculture Dinner, so that they may be shared with more of the agriculture community.

D-1) Potential Projects-Drenchko (Hillsborough)

Ms. Katzer shared the following information for the Drenchko application

- Block: 2.07, Lot: 1.01
- Acreage: 22.52
- Existing Field Uses: Timothy Hay
- No buildings & Structures, No non-ag uses, no pre-existing easements
- Tenant Farmer: Doug Van Nuys

She explained that the existing paper road could be used for access. The Board reviewed the map for other access options and agreed to discuss the application further during closed session.

D-2) Gund (Franklin)

The Board was informed that all items have been submitted to County Counsel and that the property should be closing in the near future.

D-3) Chubb/Ace Farm (Bedminster)

The Board was informed that all items have been submitted to County Counsel and that the property should be closing in the near future.

D-4) Garden State Heirloom Seed Society Museum Visit

Ms. Katzer informed the Board that the tour at the Garden State Heirloom Seed Society Museum for the Board, along with members of the Cultural & Heritage Commission is scheduled for November 22, 2019.

D-5) Ag Day 2020 – March 20, 2020

Ms. Katzer discussed plans for the upcoming National Ag events for the year 2020. Plans included;

- A March 20th event held at Somerville Library- abstract S shaped garden
- Small displays and kids activities throughout the week
- Female farmer presenter

She explained that the save the dates were sent to the Freeholder's and that a formal letter will soon be sent out.

D-6) Lighting Fair - June 5, 2020

Ms. Katzer brought the idea to the Board of offering to partner with New Center Dairy to combine the tentative Lighting Fair event with New Center Dairy's 90th celebration, being planned by Nancy Kirby. The Board agreed, as long as the spot light remained on the 90th celebration.

D-7) Closed Session

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

D-8) Results and Actions from Closed Session

Mueller: Laura DePrado made a motion authorizing County Counsel to write a letter to Mr. Mueller explaining that they are entitled to and will need access to the inside of all his building. The motion was seconded by Peter Staats and the motion was passed and carried.

Drenchko: A motion to move forward with the Drenchko application was made by Ricahrd Norz and was seconded by Laura DePrado. Two members voted no and the motion was passed and carried.

Hunter: The Board agreed that staff will send a letter to Mr. Philbrick and the complainants for any further information regarding the complaint against Hunter Farms.

SADC – Presentation

The Board heard presentations from Jeff Everett and Susan Payne on the proposed changes to the Special Events program, and the Soil Standards program. The Board was invited to send in comments by mid-December.

Other

Doyle: A motion to forward the appraisals for the Doyle property to the SADC was made by Richard Norz and was seconded by Ed Seidel. The motion was passed and carried.

Respectfully Submitted by,

J. Johnson
Secretary/Treasurer