

Minutes of the November 25, 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 November 25, 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, Planning Div.
Anthony McCracken, Vice Chairman, Planning Div.
Kate Katzer, Principal Planner, Planning Div.
Cathy Bunting, Administrative Assistant, Planning Div.

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the October 2019 CADB Minutes was made by Richard Norz 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 staff is waiting to get the last parts of the Ag program portion of the Preservation Plan to review with the Steering Committee. They will tentatively be meeting with the consultant on the next Friday.

I-2) SADC Meeting - Update

Ms. Katzer shared Amy Mandelbaum's written update from the SADC with the Board.

Richard Norz informed the Board that Roger Kummple and he have received approval from the State Judiciary Committee to serve as a member of the SADC. He explained that the vote is expected to be forwarded to the full senate on December 18, 2019. He explained that there are still individuals that have not yet received any approvals.

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

County: Ed Seidel informed the Board that the Somerset County Board of Agriculture's recent dinner was a success.

State: Richard Norz informed the Board that the attorney and the marketing director have both resigned from the State Board of Agriculture. The positions are expected to be filled.

I-4) Staff Comments

A letter recognizing Dan Snyder from Roads & Bridges for his assistance in Annual Farm Monitoring was included in the Board packets. The Board reviewed it and gave their approval to submit it through the proper channels to receive recognition.

D-1) Potential Projects

Mr. Katzer explained that both the Drenchko and Dorn applications have been submitted to the SADC. She explained that the State did have some concerns regarding Dorn's current exception area request and whether or not they will affect prime soils. Staff will be speaking with the Dorn applicants to see if they would be willing to reconfigure their exception areas.

D-2) SADC Soil Standards & Special Event Rules

Ms. Katzer explained that staff is currently compiling their comments on the SADC Soil Standard & Special Event Rules. She explained that they were due back by the middle of December and that if the Board has any additional comments they should email them to her.

Upon Richard Norz's suggestion the Board agreed to hold a subcommittee meeting before the deadline so comments can be discussed before submitting. The meeting was scheduled for December 11, 2019 at 8:00 AM.

D-3) December CADB Meeting

A motion to change the December CADB Meeting to December 16, 2019 was made by Richard Norz and was seconded by Laura DePrado. The motion was passed and carried.

D-4) Closed Session

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

D-4) Results and Actions from Closed Session

Zhu: Ed Seidel made a motion to authorize staff to send a letter to the owners of the Zhu property instructing them to mow off their property by January 2020. The motion was seconded by Laura DePrado and the motion was passed and carried.

Galdi: Peter Staats made a motion to authorize staff to send a letter to the owners of the Galdi Property asking for clarification on where the wood and soil originated from. The motion was seconded by Laura DePrado.

Peter Staats then amended the motion to include a 15 day time limit, from the date of the letter, for the owners to respond. The motion was seconded by Laura DePrado and the motion was passed and carried.

Cichowski: Richard Norz made a motion to authorize staff to send a letter to the owner of the Cichowski farm stating that they are in non-compliance of the Deed of Easement and that they must have the property cleaned up by January 1, 2019. The motion was seconded by Peter Staats and was passed and carried.

Mueller: Laura DePrado made a motion to authorize staff to send a letter to the Hillsborough Health Department stating that, based on conversations with Hillsborough Township that septic system violations are suspected. The motion was seconded by Ed Seidel and was passed and carried.

Laura DePrado made a motion to authorize staff to send a letter to the Hillsborough Zoning Department that there is suspicion of illegal housing on the property. The motion was seconded by Ed Seidel and it was passed and carried.

Peter Staats made a motion to authorize staff to send a notice of violation to the owner of the Mueller property. The motion was seconded by Laura DePrado.

Discussion: The Board agreed to list each violation in the letter and also to include that Hillsborough Township was also involved in providing information regarding events on the property. The motion was passed and carried.

Laura DePrado made a motion to inform the Freeholder of the violations on the Mueller Property. The motion was seconded by Peter Staats and was passed and carried.

Doyle: Richard Norz made a motion authorizing staff to put the land survey out to bid to progress towards the closing on the Doyle property. The motion was seconded by Peter Staats and was passed and carried.

Other

Ms. Katzer informed the Board that she is beginning to work on plans for the 2020 Ag day. She explained the details of the plans with the Board.

Laura DePrado suggested that gardening and horticulture be included in those plans.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the Board was made by Richard Norz and was seconded by Laura DePrado. The motion was passed and carried and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by,

J. Johnson
Secretary/Treasurer