

Minutes of the December 16, 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 December 16, 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

Members Absent

Laura DePrado

Somerset County Staff

Walter Lane, Director, SC Planning Division
Anthony McCracken, Assistant Dir., SC Planning Division
Kate Katzer, Principal Planner, SC Planning Division
Cathy Bunting, Administrative Assistant, SC Planning Division
Tom Boccino, SC Parks Commission
Angela Jupin, Deputy County Counsel

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the November CADB minutes was made by Peter Staats and seconded by J. Johnson.

Discussion: Richard Norz explained that he would like the last month's discussion of which staff conducts annual inspections on the property included in the minutes. Ed Seidel also pointed out an incorrect date to be corrected.

A motion to approve the minutes with the edits was made by Peter Staats and was seconded by Ed Seidel. The motion was passed and carried.

There was no public comment.

I-1) Somerset County Preservation Plan – Update

Kate Katzer explained that staff has received comments back from most of the draft chapters and that they are continuing to work on getting the remaining back and reviewing those that need editing. She explained there is no steering committee meeting currently scheduled.

I-2) SADC Meeting – Update

Amy Mandelbaum from the SADC was unable to attend the meeting however emailed the CADB a written update.

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

County: Ed Seidel informed the Board that new officers were voted in to the County Board of Agriculture. He also explained that the possibilities of hiring a secretary and special occasion events were discussed.

State: Richard Norz informed the Board that the next State Board of Agriculture meeting would be held on December 18, 2020.

I-4) Staff Comments

Somerset County Patriots: Ms. Katzer explained that she was contacted by Dave Merrick, from the Somerset County Patriots. She explained that he was interested in teaming with the CADB for another event for the year 2020.

The Board expressed that partnering with the County Board of Agriculture may be a better fit while Ms. Katzer suggested that the CADB may participate again in some capacity due to positive feedback and expressed interest.

It was decided that staff could consider participating however will advise Mr. Merrick to contact the County Board of Agriculture.

Richard Norz explained that he is unwilling to participate this year.

National Agriculture Day: Ms. Katzer explained that staff has chosen a date and location for National Agricultural Day 2020. She explained that she is currently working on the details.

D-1) Potential Projects

Drenchko: Ms. Katzer explained that staff has just finished finalized the maps for the Drenchko property as requested by the SADC and will be sending them back to them for their greenlight review.

Dorn: Ms. Katzer explained that the SADC informed her that they were unhappy with the layout with one of the exception areas on the Dorn property and will be requesting a review of the submission.

D-2) RTF – Follett Farm (Branchburg)

This item was removed from the agenda based upon the applicant's request.

D-3) Doyle (Hillsborough)

Ms. Katzer explained that staff is currently working with Engineering to get the surveys completed on the Doyle property. She also explained that she informed Ms. Doyle that the property most likely will not be closing before the end of the year.

D-4) Gund (Franklin)

Ms. Katzer explained that she is currently working with County Counsel Bill Cooper to get closing data requested by the SADC. Staff is attempting to close on the property within the next week.

D-5) Chubb/Ace

Ms. Katzer explained that final approval was recently received for the Chubb/Ace property and that it should be closed by the coming Friday.

D-6) SADC Soil Standards & Special Event Rules

Ms. Katzer shared a draft letter to the SADC with the CADB comments from the November 11, 2019 and from the October visit from the SADC. She also reminded them that she previously have emailed it them. The Board reviewed and discussed each item one by one.

A motion to approve the letter as amended by the CADB was made by Richard Norz and was seconded by Peter Staats.

Discussion: Mr. Norz then added that all CC's be sent a copy on the letter. Staff also decided to send a copy of the letter to all Somerset County Legislators.

The motion was voted on and passed.

D-7) SCADB Committees 2020

Ms. Katzer distributed the Subcommittee list for 2020 for the Board to review and be voted on at the next CADB meeting.

D-8) SCADB 2020 Meeting Dates Schedule

Mark Kirby explained that the first meeting of 2020 would be held on January 27, 2020 and the list of 2020 meeting dates will be provided for review and approval. Richard Norz suggested that the Board meets at 7:00 PM, especially during the busy months of ag. Other members supported the existing meeting schedule.

Other:

Freeholder Walsh: Mr. Kirby suggested that the Board write a letter expressing thanks to Freeholder Walsh.

Richard Norz made a motion to send Freeholder Pat Walsh a letter thanking her for her service and it was seconded by Peter Staats. The motion was voted on and passed.

Solar Panels on Preserved land: Mr. Kirby informed the Board that Mr. Lima informed him that he now has solar panels on his property.

Comic for National Ag Day: Ms. Katzer shared the drafted comic for consideration by the Board.

D-9) Closed Session:

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

J. Johnson was not present for any discussions regarding the Hunter Property and Walter Lane was not present during any discussions during the Naturally Nurturing Property.

D-10) Results and Actions from Closed Session

A motion to request that the SADC inform the CADB on all issues on all properties that the CADB have an interest in was made by Richard Norz and was seconded by Ed Seidel. The motion was passed and carried.

Mueller: Richard Norz made a motion to authorize staff to set up a meeting with Hillsborough Zoning and Health Department, Somerset County Health Department and RTF Subcommittee to discuss all Mueller farm issues and determine a plan on moving forward. The motion was seconded by Peter Staats. The motion was passed and carried.

Ed Seidel made a motion to authorize staff to send a letter to Mr. Mueller requesting information regarding the details of his plans for the road and millings on the property and also include three dates to complete an inspection on the property and review the road issue and if Mr. Mueller

does not allow access to the property staff would be authorized to have county counsel file a motion to gain access. The motion was seconded by J. Johnson.

Discussion: Mr. Norz suggested that the dates for inspection be mentioned in the letter first and that the millings and road issue be secondary. The Board agreed and the motion was voted on and passed.

A motion to send Mr Lima a letter for more information on the placement on his solar panels was made by Peter Staats and was seconded by Ed Seidel.

Discussion: Mr. Norz suggested calling Mr. Lima instead of sending a letter but the Board did not agree.

Mr. Norz voted no and the motion was passed and carried.

Adjourn

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

Respectfully Submitted by:

J. Johnson
Secretary/Treasurer