

Minutes of the April 26, 2021
Somerset County Agriculture Development Board
Virtual Meeting

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the April 26, 2021 Somerset County Agriculture Development Board (CADB) Meeting began at 8:00 AM. This meeting was held virtually due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Members in Attendance:

Mark Kirby, Chairman
W. Peter Staats, Vice Chairman
Sandra Rhue, Secretary/Treasurer
Richard Norz
Matt D'Alessandro

Somerset County Staff:

Walter Lane, Dir., Planning Div.
Anthony McCracken, Asst. Dir., Planning Div.
Kate Katzer, Principal Planner, Planning Div.
Thomas Boccino, Principal Planner, Planning Div.
Sarah Fitzgerald, County Counsel
Greg Pasquale, Deputy County Counsel
Patrice Brown Administrative Assistant

Members Not in Attendance:

Christopher Carnevale
Laura DePrado
Ben Auletta

Public in Attendance:

Michael Mueller
Lauren Dooley, Esq.
Beth Davisson
Rachel DeFlumeri
Cindy Roberts

Approval of Minutes:

A motion to approve the April 26, 2021 CADB meeting minutes with noted correction was made by Rich Norz and was seconded by Peter Staats. Roll call was done and the motion was passed and carried.

Public Comment & Presentations:

1. Beth Davisson – Palermo Property- upon closing of this property the nonprofit would like the County to take ownership of the easement. The Board requested the application package.
2. Michael Mueller- Mueller Property – Mr. Mueller mentioned the importation of “excessive” millings on neighboring Osterman property and an access easement across his property. He requested the Board investigate.

Informational Items:

I-3) Somerset County Preservation Plan Update:

Kate Katzer reported that there have been internal meetings to discuss the update for the preservation plan. Final comments on the remaining chapters have been sent and staff is almost complete. Better

verbiage has been used at the request of the steering committee. Maps are still being worked on including Farm data and should be completed soon. Steering committee meeting to be held at which time the maps will be reviewed along with final chapters. Cindy Roberts, from the SADC, questioned if the County was planning to incorporate ADA updates in the plan's adoption.

I-4) SADC Meeting-Update

Richard Norz reported that the Soil Protection Standards Drafts were sent to County Staff from the SADC for review and comment. County has 60 days to review and comment.

I-5) County /State Boards of Agriculture - Update

Norz Hill Farm will host the County Ag in Action event on June 20, 2021. 200 plus attendees are expected. Kate Katzer confirmed that there will be an Ag Board table set up for the event.

I-6) Staff Comments

County Council, Greg Pasquale introduced Sarah Fitzpatrick who took over acquisitions for Kevin Borris. Walter Lane announced that Tom Boccino would now be a member of Planning Division staff. He will be running the newly developed Open Space section of the County Planning Division. Mr. Lane also reported that the Ag Story Map received National recognition and thanked Kate Katzer and Paul Drake.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:

D-1) Deerfield Farms (Bedminster)

Kate Katzer shared that at the last meeting there was a discussion of moving forward with the property to which the Board voted "Yes". Ms. Katzer has obtained a breakdown of cost shares and has invited the board to revisit this topic in closed session.

D-2) Mueller

This topic will be revisited in closed session.

D-3) Palermo (Bedminster)

This topic will be revisited in closed session.

D-4) Ashrafi Property (Bedminster)

Kate Katzer reported that Mr. Ashrafi would like to participate in the Preservation Program. He is currently filling out the application, and intends to submit the documents soon.

D-5) Doyle (Hillsborough)

Kate Katzer referred the Board to the Resolution which was in their packets. This resolution clarifies that the manure collected was associated only with the properties known as Mill Lane Farm. A motion to

approve this Resolution was moved by Rich Norz and seconded by Peter Staats A role call was done and the motion was passed and carried.

D-6) Triple S Farm (Montgomery)

Ms. Katzer shared with the Board Triple S Farms request to obtain Commercial Farm Certification to ensure Right to Farm protection. A description of the farm and its assessment information was provided. Staff has reviewed the packet, will perform a site visit and a recommendation to approve certification is therefore proposed on the next agenda

D-7) Fern Hill at Rooster Rock Farm (Peapack and Gladstone)

This 20 acre property is looking to update their certification to include additional parcels.

D-8) Closed Session

A motion to go into closed session was moved by Peter Staats and Seconded by Sandra Rhue. A roll call was made and the motion was passed and carried. The Board went into closed session at 9:31am.

D-9) Results and Actions from Closed Session

Doyle

No action required

Triple S Farm

Staff to make a site visit

Fern Hill at Red Rooster Rock Farm

Site inspection to addition

Mueller

Documentation regarding millings and Osterman Farm to be requested from Attorney for Mueller.

Deerfield Farms

A motion was made approving the cost share request from the non-profit, and to forward that request to the Commissioners for their consideration. The cost of the property is estimated to be roughly \$682,000.00 plus 10% ancillary; appraisals are currently being done on the property. The motion was made by Peter Staats and seconded by Sandra Rhue. A roll call was done and the motion was passed and carried.

Palermo

A request to see the full packet was made by consent. All board members have consented.

**Thoughts and prayers for Laura Deprado who is having surgery.*

**Condolences to Chairman Kirby for the loss of his Father.*

D-10) Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Sandra Rhue and seconded by Rich Norz all voted Yes and the motion was passed and carried.

NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD ON MAY 26, 2021 VIA ZOOM AT 8:00 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sandra Rhue
Secretary/Treasurer