

Minutes of the June 28, 2021
Somerset County Agriculture Development Board
Virtual Meeting

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the June 28, 2021 Somerset County Agriculture Development Board (CADB) Meeting began at 8:01 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
Laura DePrado
Christopher Carnevale
Matt D'Alessandro, Soil Conservation District

Somerset County Staff:

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

Public in Attendance:

Rachel DeFlumeri, SADC
Cindy Roberts, SADC
Linda Peterson
Natalie Zaman

Members Not in Attendance:

None

Approval of Minutes:

A motion to approve the **June 28, 2021 SCADB Meeting minutes** was made by Richard Norz and was seconded by Christopher Carnevale. Roll call was done, and the motion was passed and carried.

Public Comment & Presentations:

1. Michael Mueller- Mueller Farm (was not present)
2. Linda Peterson- Mueller Farm: The roadway to Long Hill Road has been seeded and is completely contained. The Millings staging area is to be kept to ensure minimal contamination around the site. The Mueller representatives will be addressing the deteriorating abutment in a later stage.
3. John Chadwick- Dealaman Enterprises (was not present) will be discussed further in closed session.
4. Natalie Zaman- Native American Exhibit (Cultural & Heritage Commission):

The Commission is requesting contacts for permission for an artifact search on certain Farms for their themed 2021 Native American display.

Ms. Zaman also discussed Information gathering Pop Up marketplaces at various locations and would like to include Farm Sites.

Informational Items:

I-5) Somerset County Preservation Plan Update

Kate Katzer reported that she is currently examining the recently submitted final version of the Ag Plan and all the mapping materials were handed over to the GIS team and adjusting any issues that may need correction.

I-6) SADC Meeting-Update

Richard Norz reported that the meeting was extremely short. Informal comments were made.

I-7) County /State Boards of Agriculture – Update

Richard Norz mentioned two new State Board members have been confirmed by the Senate.

Mr. Norz said that Ag in Action event went well and was commended for the great turnout.

I-5) Staff Comments

Kate Katzer reminded the Board of the Influencing Agriculture event on September 14, 2021 a 2:30 p.m.

Ms. Katzer is currently in the process of selecting members for the panel.

Kate Katzer informed the board that Pat Gorman is no longer with Hillsborough Township; he is now part of Middlesex County's Zoning Office. Pat sent his thanks to the Board and said that he will miss working with everyone.

Kate Katzer reported that Palermo has gone before the SADC at a recent meeting and is headed toward closing.

Tony McCracken mentioned a publication he came across called Edible New Jersey.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:

D-1) Mueller (Hillsborough)

Kate Katzer said the update was received from Linda Peterson. This topic will be revisited in closed session.

D-2) Osterman (Hillsborough)

Ms. Katzer reported that County Counsel, Greg Pasquale, has been in communication with the Osterman Attorney.

D-3) Dealaman Enterprises (Warren)

Kate Katzer informed the Board that the Right to Farm has been obtained. This topic will be revisited in closed session.

D-4) Axcel (Hillsborough)

Ms. Katzer reported that a site visit was done due in part to a report from Pat Gorman of neighbor complaints. When the inspection was done, a septic tank installation was found outside of the exception area. The owner had planned to put a multi-family dwelling on the property as well. This topic will be revisited in closed session.

D-5) Hidden Brook Farm (Bedminster)

Kate Katzer recounted the owner's application submission early this year. The owners are now looking to preserve this property. Kate is requesting the Board's permission to forward this application to the SADC.

D-6) Closed Session

At 8:41 a.m. a motion to go into closed session was moved by Peter Staats and seconded by Sandra Rhue.

D-7) Results and actions from Closed Sesssion

Mueller – The Board discussed update given during open session.

Dealaman – The Board discussed the update given open session.

Osterman – No discussion in Closed Session

Axcel- The Board discussed looking into the Septic Tank placement. (Fact finding phase)

Hidden Brook Farm – Application Received. The Board agreed to send the application to the SADC.

**Out of Closed Session at 9:03 a.m.*

D-10) Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Rich Norz and seconded by Laura DePrado. All voted Yes and the motion was passed and carried.

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

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sandra Rhue
Secretary/Treasurer