

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

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the July 26, 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 W. Kirby, Chairman
W. Peter Staats, Vice Chairman
Sandra D. Rhue, Secretary/Treasurer
Richard Norz
Laura DePrado

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
Patrice Brown Administrative Assistant, Planning Div.
Commissioner Paul Drake

Public in Attendance:

Rachel DeFlumeri, SADC
Cindy Roberts, SADC
John Chadwick, Warren Twp. Zoning
Beth Davisson, NJCF
Linda Peterson, Private Consultant

Members Not in Attendance:

Christopher Carnevale

Swearing in of New Member:

Mr. Robert Schultz was sworn in as the new member of the Somerset County Agriculture Development Board. Mr. Schultz introduced himself and the Board Members introduced themselves to him.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion to approve the **June 28, 2021 SCADB Meeting minutes** was made by Laura DePrado and was seconded by Sandra Rhue. Roll call was done, and the motion was passed and carried.

Public Comment & Presentations:

1. John Chadwick- Dealaman Enterprises – Extensive woodchip operation on the property warranted the township request of inspection. The township has received several complaints. The Board is in a fact finding phase to determine if there is protection under the Right to Farm Act. John Chadwick addressed the board with information on the matter and he answered any and all questions from the Board.

2. Beth Davisson – Champey (Bedminster), Tucker (Peapack) & Weseley (Bedminster) – NJCF is requesting that Somerset County take ownership of the deeds of easement upon closing of the Champey, Tucker, and Weseley properties. NJCF is also seeking financial assistance for the Tucker property – 20% of the final cost not to exceed \$300,000. Beth walked the Board through each of the properties, and answering any additional questions.

Informational Items:

I3) Somerset County Preservation Plan Update

Kate Katzer reported that the Preservation Plan is complete. The maps have been finalized and sent to the consultant. The plan is to have it distributed to the public shortly. Once it is packaged to the public, the Board will receive the Plan to review so that the public comments and Board comments can be received in tandem. Walter Lane explained the process the plan is going through to get to the final stage where it can be finalized.

I-6) SADC Meeting-Update

Richard Norz mentioned that the meeting was very brief and that he did not have much to report. Rachel DeFlumeri added that Solar updates were briefly discussed during the meeting. Cindy Roberts reported that the website contained more information as the summary of the recent Solar Laws was recently approved and added.

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

Richard Norz mentioned two new State Board members have been confirmed by the Senate and will now be seated.

I-5) Staff Comments

Kate Katzer referred to a meeting with Dukes Farm that recently took place. There was discussion about using the location for the Influencing Agriculture event on September 14, 2021. This event will feature 5 panelists who will share their experiences in Agriculture as well as their views on how Agriculture is changing in today's culture.

Ms. Katzer shared that the Farm to Frame event announcement will be debuted at the Influencing Agriculture event. Applications for Farmers to pair with Artists will be distributed soon.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:

D-1) Delaman Enterprises (Warren)

Kate Katzer requested this topic be discussed in closed session.

D-2) Champey (Bedminster)

Kate Katzer requested this topic be discussed in closed session.

D-3) Tucker

Kate Katzer requested this topic be discussed in closed session.

D-4) Weseley

Kate Katzer requested this topic be discussed in closed session.

D-5) Closed Session

At 9:40 a.m. a motion to go into closed session was moved by Sandra Rhue and Seconded by Laura DePrado. A role call was made and the motion was passed and carried.

D-6) Results and actions from Closed Sesssion

Delaman Enterprises (Warren) – The Board sought permission to send this to the Right to Farm Committee. The motion was so moved by Peter Staats and seconded by Laura DePrado. A roll call was made and the motion was passed and carried.

Champey, Tucker and Weseley – The Board made Motion to send all potential negotiation documentation to the P.I.G Committee for approval. Motion was so moved by Sandra Rhue and seconded by Laura DePrado. A roll call was done and the motion was moved and carried.

Dorn – The Board discussed the discussion to send in the offer from the appraisals on the property. Richard Norz so moved the motion and it was seconded by Peter Staats. A role call was done and the motion was passed and carried.

**Out of Closed Session at 9:46 a.m.*

D-7) Adjournment

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

NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD ON AUGUST 23, 2021 VIA ZOOM AT 8:00 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sandra Rhue
Secretary/Treasurer