

Minutes of the October 25, 2021
Somerset County Agriculture Development Board
Virtual Meeting

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the October 25, 2021 Somerset County Agriculture Development Board (CADB) Meeting began at 8:03 A.M. 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
Laura DePrado
Robert Schultz

Somerset County Staff:

Walter Lane, Director, Planning Div.
Kate Katzer, Principal Planner, Planning Div.
Thomas Boccino, Open Space Coordinator, Planning Div.
Commissioner Paul Drake
Greg Pasquale, Deputy County Counsel
Patrice Brown, Administrative Assistant, Planning Div.

Public in Attendance:

Rachel DeFlumeri, SADC
Tim Willmott, SADC
Linda Peterson-Mueller (Hillsborough)
Ed Clerico, Clerico Farms (Hillsborough)

Members Not in Attendance:

Richard Norz
Christopher Carnevale

Approval of Minutes:

A motion to approve the **September 27, 2021 SCADB Meeting minutes** was made by Peter Staats and was seconded by Sandra Rhue. Roll call was done and the motion was passed and carried.

Public Comment & Presentations:

None

Informational Items:

I-2) Somerset County Preservation Plan Update

Kate Katzer reported that staff finished the Public Meetings (about 4 meetings total) and there was a good turnout with great positive feedback. Staff will be going over the comments to address any changes or additional items to the plan. There will be a steering committee meeting on November 5th and any changes will be presented at that time. Ms. Katzer said that the goal is to have the Plan

adopted at the beginning of 2022. Walter Lane thanked Commissioners Murano and Drake who both participated in the Public Meetings.

I-3) SADC Meeting-Update

Tim Willmott reported that there will be a discussion of soil protection standards. SADC will hear what has been addressed in regard to the proposal. Kate Katzer added that Rachel DeFlumeri will continue to be our liaison to the Board, but Dave Clapp and Tim Willmott will be interacting with the Board more often on her behalf.

I-4) County /State Boards of Agriculture – Update

Nothing to report.

I-5) Staff Comments

a. Monitoring 2021:

Kate Katzer gave the Board a full report on the Monitoring sessions thus far and expectations for the coming sessions.

Monitoring sessions will take place October 18, 2021 through November 15, 2021.

Commissioners Marano and Drake are interested in attending a few of the monitoring sessions.

Monitoring recap to be given in November. Ms. Katzer thanked Tom Boccino for attending the monitoring sessions.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:

D-1) Mueller (Hillsborough)

Kate reported that there were stockpiles on the property that were questionable. No removal has been done as of yet. Longhill Road looks good and that level of remediation is expected. The farm is currently active. Board to inquire on status of the Mueller remediation project. The Board will request to see work done on the pad. A motion was made from Laura DePrado and seconded by Sandra Rhue. Roll call was taken and the motion was passed and carried.

This topic will be further discussed in closed session.

D-2) Clerico (Bedminster)

Kate Katzer said that Mr. Clerico is working with David Kois from Hillsborough. He is looking to do some updates to the property. Ms. Katzer said that Mr. Clerico is having issues is how Zoning affects his updates. Mr. Clerico is proposing a recertification to adjust the existing Right to Farm rules to assist him in making his updates. This topic will be further discussed in closed session.

D-5) Closed Session

A motion to go into closed session was made by Laura DePrado and seconded by Peter Staats. A roll call was done and the motion was passed and carried.

Closed session began at 9:01 a.m.

D-6) Results and actions from Closed Session (ended at 9:50 a.m.)

Clerico – A motion to approve the Clerico Farm as a commercial Farm in Hillsborough was made by Peter Staats. Laura DePrado seconded the motion. A roll call was made and the motion was passed and approved.

Awad Farm – Update regarding calls and concerns regarding fly issues and intervention. The owner has been connected with the NRCS office for help with the fly and manure concerns, and connected with the Hillsborough Tax Assessor to begin the process of farmland assessment.

D-7) Adjournment

A 9:50 a.m. 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 MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2021 VIA ZOOM AT 8:00 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Sandra Rhue
Secretary/Treasurer