

Minutes of the October 24, 2022
Somerset County Agriculture Development Board

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the October 24, 2022 Somerset County Agriculture Development Board (SCADB) Meeting began at 8:09 A.M. with no Quorum. This meeting was held in person in the Commissioner's Meeting Room at the Somerset County Administration Building in Somerville, N.J.

Open Public Meetings Statement

Chairman Mark Kirby reported the meeting had been duly advertised in accordance with Open Public Meetings Act as follows:

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 *et seq.*, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided. The date and time information for this meeting were published in The Star-Ledger and the Courier News. The agenda for this meeting was also posted on the County Agriculture Development Board website.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken. There was NOT a Quorum.

Members in Attendance:

Mark W. Kirby, Chairman
W. Peter Staats, Vice Chairman
Sandra D. Rhue, Secretary/Treasurer
Matt D'Alessandro, Soil Conservation District (Non-voting)

Members Not in Attendance:

County Commissioner Paul Drake, Liaison (Non-Voting)
Kenneth Osterman
Laura DePrado
Robert Shultz

Somerset County Staff:

Walter C. Lane, Director, Office of Planning, Policy and Economic Development
Kate Katzer, Principal Planner, Office of Planning, Policy and Economic Development
Patrice Brown, Administrative Assistant, Office of Planning, Policy and Economic Development
Larissa Paxton, Preservation Intern, Office of Planning, Policy and Economic Development
Greg Pasquale, Deputy County Counsel

Public Members Present:

Steve Zaback, SADC (State Agriculture Development Committee) Staff
Richard Dodds, NJCF (New Jersey Conservation Foundation) Staff

Approval of Minutes:

Since there was no quorum, there was no action taken on this item.

PUBLIC COMMENT & PRESENTATIONS:

No Public Comment

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

1. SADC Meeting –Update

Dave Zaback of the SADC briefed the Board on the Soil Standard Rules, that they would not be on the October SADC Meeting. Mr. Zaback also stated that he was looking forward to joining County Staff during their monitoring so that he could become more familiar with the area.

2. County /State Boards of Agriculture – Update

Director of Planning, Policy and Economic Development, Walter Lane, reported that he and Principal Planner Kate Katzer attended the Board of Agriculture Dinner last week. There was discussion about the CADB partnering with the Board of Agriculture. A new President and Vice President for the Board of Agriculture have been announced.

3. Staff Comments

Kate Katzer reported that Staff received the Nakhla paperwork on Thursday, October 20, 2022, for the Site-Specific Agricultural Management Plan (SSAMP). Staff has been keeping Hillsborough informed on the progress of project.

Director Lane announced that the Preservation Plan has received yet another award and was presented the award at the Preservation New Jersey Event. At this event, Director Lane thanked his staff and recognized their individual efforts in working to promote this Plan. He shared his appreciation for Staff's hard work and dedication to this project with the Board.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:

1. Monitoring 2022

Principal Planner Katzer distributed a list of monitoring dates to the Board for a second time so they could choose dates of availability for monitoring which will end on November 15, 2022. Ms. Katzer also reported findings on the Spook Hollow Farms property including a newly constructed basement- she is actively investigating whether or not this is in the exception area on the property.

2. Agriculture Bills

Ms. Katzer shared a recap of the Right to Farm Committee meeting with the Board. The 1st bill to be discussed was Bill A285– This Bill establishes the New Farmers improvement Grant program. It was requested that a letter be constructed with definitions for New Farmers verses First Farmers. Clarifications on the Bill were requested by the Right to Farm Committee.

Bill A4714 which spoke about a Farmers' ability to Opt Out of certain Bills imposed on farms after their preservation date. Staff and the Board shared their concerns about the Bill.

Several other Bills were shared with the full Board and will be brought back to the Legislative Committee for further review.

3. SADC Direct Easement Event

Principal Planner Kate Katzer updated the Board about the SADC Direct Easement Event that the County would be co-hosting. The event will be taking place at 9am in the Commissioner's Meeting Room on December 7, 2022.

4. Mueller (Hillsborough)

Principal Planner Kate Katzer updated the Board on a timeline for the Barn Pad on this property. Linda Petersen, the consultant for Mr. Mueller, sent a resolution to the Board with the incorrect information which extended the process. Staff will be on-site during monitoring to check the progress being made on the property. The Board discussed putting together a letter to go out after monitoring that would lay out the remaining steps left for the project to reach completion to ensure everyone was on the same page. Once the millings are removed from the property, and the site inspection has been completed, staff will release a letter to the township so that the landowner can receive the necessary permits to construct the barn structure. A resolution capturing the process needed by the landowner to complete the project for their permit will go before the Board at their November meeting.

5. Closed Session:

There was no closed session discussion held because there was no Quorum.

RESULTS AND ACTIONS FROM CLOSED SESSION:

There were no actions or results due to the closed session not being held at 8:47 a.m., a motion was made by Sandra Rhue and seconded by Peter Staats to adjourn. Due to a lack of quorum, the Board agreed to adjourn the meeting.

The next meeting will be held in person on November 28, 2022, at 8:00 a.m. in the same location.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Sandra Rhue
Secretary/Treasurer