

Minutes of the April 24, 2023
Somerset County Agriculture Development Board

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the April 24, 2023 Somerset County Agriculture Development Board (SCADB) Meeting began at 8:06 A.M. 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 Act Compliance Statement

Vice Chair Peter Staats 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 Somerset County Agriculture Development Board's website.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken. There was a Quorum.

Vice Chair Staats turned the meeting over to Chairman Kirby at this time.

Members in Attendance:

Mark W. Kirby, Chair (arrived at 8:09 a.m.)
W. Peter Staats, Vice Chair
Sandra D. Rhue, Secretary/Treasurer
Debbie Norz
Kenneth Osterman
County Commissioner Paul Drake, Liaison
Matt D'Alessandro, Soil Conservation District

Members Not in Attendance:

Robert Shultz
Laura DePrado

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
Tom Boccino, Supervising Planner – Preservation, Office of Planning, Policy and Economic Development
Patrice Brown, Administrative Assistant, Office of Planning, Policy and Economic Development
Greg Pasquale, Deputy County Counsel

Public Members Present:

Richard Dodds, NJ Conservation Foundation Staff

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: SCADB Regular Meeting – March 27, 2023

A motion to approve the SCADB minutes of the March 27, 2023, meeting was made by Debbie Norz and seconded by Sandra Rhue. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT & PRESENTATIONS:

No public comment

INFORMATION ITEMS

2. SADC Meeting -Update

No update currently.

3. County/State Boards of Agriculture – Update

Debbie Norz reported that she recused herself from during the State Board of Agriculture discussion at the last meeting on a preserved farm in Hillsborough that had applied for a solar installation. The farmer placed the solar panels on the barn within his exception area; but the SADC flagged the project because he had not filed for approval through the State. The Board questioned why the farmer would need to apply for something within the exception area. County Counsel Greg Pasquale shared a new rule pertaining to solar installations on preserved farms had recently passed and said that there may be something new in those regulations. Staff will investigate this and report back to the Board.

4. Staff Comments

Principal Planner Kate Katzer thanked the Board for its support for the Farm to Frame event which was held on March 24, 2023. The event was a success and thanks went to the farmers, Commissioners, staff, and all other participants. Many of the participants said that they would like to take part again, and others that attended the event in support expressed interest in future participation.

Ms. Katzer shared the schedule for the Farm to Frame exhibit which will travel to various locations from May to August. In June, the gallery will be split between the Basking Ridge Senior Center and the Hillsborough Senior Center. In July, the gallery will be split between the Bernardsville Library and the Montgomery Library. If any additional sites are added, staff will share those updates.

The Franklin High School Green Fair event will be held on Saturday, April 29, 2023 from 1:00p.m. to 3:30p.m. at Franklin Township High School gymnasium. Kate Katzer and Tom Boccino will be in attendance representing the Preservation team.

The Ag. in Action event will be held on June 10, 2023 from 10a.m. to 2p.m. at Middlebush Dairy Farm in Franklin, NJ. Kate Katzer will be tabling at the event.

The 2023 tire drop-off for farmers will take place April 24-29, 2023 and October 23-27, 2023. If a farmer plans to drop off more than 20 tires, staff should be notified in advance so that the facility can be alerted.

There is a Right to Farm complaint against the Dealaman Property. A motion was made by Peter Staats and seconded by Ken Osterman to add to the closed session agenda. A roll call was taken, and the motion was passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

1. Dalness Property SSAMP (Peapack-Gladstone)

Kate Katzer read the Dalness Property draft SSAMP to the Board for review and revision. The SSAMP captured the owner's current operation and plans to expand in the future. Currently, the operations include raising poultry, egg production, growing vegetables, and haying operations. The owner would like to expand its farming operation to include beekeeping, and raising of livestock such as sheep, equine, goats, and alpaca. It will be discussed in closed session.

2. Special Occasion Events Update

Kate Katzer indicated that she is working with Dave Zaback on a regional training session for farmers and municipal stake holders regarding Special Occasion Events. This training session will take place this May.

3. Education & Outreach Committee

Kate Katzer reported that the Influencing Ag. event will be held in September, 2023 and the committee will be discussing panelist selection, locations, generational farmers, sustainability efforts and more. The committee will establish dates and times for meetings.

Ms. Katzer provided coloring books to Board members who requested them for distribution at various events in which they will be participating.

4. Closed Session

At 8:38a.m., a motion to go into closed session was made by Sandra Rhue and seconded by Debbie Norz. A roll call was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.
At 8:55 the Board came out of closed session.

5. Results and Actions from Closed Session:

A motion to refer the Dealaman Property Right to Farm complaint to the Right to Farm Committee was made by Sandra Rhue and seconded by Debbie Norz. A roll call was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

At 8:57 a.m. a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Peter Staats and seconded by Debbie Norz. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be held in person on May 22, 2023, at 8:00 a.m. in the same location.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Sandra Rhue
Secretary/Treasurer

