

Hunterdon County Agriculture Development Board Meeting

October 8, 2020 @ 8:00 pm

314 Route 12 County Complex
Building #1 | Assembly Room
Flemington, New Jersey

Members in Attendance:

Dave Bond-Chair
Bob Hoffman-Vice Chair
Susan Blew
Ted Harwick
David Kyle
Gerry Lyness
Liz Schmid – *Via Phone*
Kevin Milz – *Via Phone*

CADB Staff Present:

Shana Taylor, Esq. County Counsel
Aaron Culton, Esq., Asst County Counsel
Bob Hornby, CADB Administrator

This meeting is being held indoor at the regular advertised time and location. Masks are mandatory according to County and State COVID-19 policy.

There is an option of attending telephonically at (877) 658-5107. When prompted for a passcode, enter 444103 then press #. Out of consideration for others, please mute your phone unless you are speaking. Please contact Bob Hornby at bhornby@co.hunterdon.nj.us or (908) 788-1490 with any questions or concerns

Open Public Meeting Act:

Chairman Dave Bond opened the meeting at 8:00 p.m. and read the Open Public Meeting Act:

"This meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act. Adequate notice has been provided by prominently posting and maintaining so posted throughout the year on the first floor of the County Administration Building, Main St., Flemington, New Jersey a public place reserved for such announcements, and by mailing on or before January 16, 2020, to The Hunterdon Democrat, Star Ledger, The Trenton Times, The Courier News and The Express Times newspapers, and TAP Into it newspaper and designated by the Hunterdon County Agriculture Development Board to receive such notices, and by filing with the Hunterdon County Clerk a schedule of the times and dates of such meetings."

Pledge of Allegiance:

Roll Call: Absent – Forest Locandro, John Pehinys, Marc Phillips

Approval of Minutes:

- **September 10, 2020 CADB Minutes** Liz Schmid made a MOTION to approve, Susan Blew SECONDED. All in favor by Voice Vote.

Communications and Administrative Business:

- **CADB Staff Update** –SADC sent a letter seeking comment JCP&L can trimming vegetation along existing easements neighboring preserved farms. JCP&L has been working with SADC on a memorandum of agreement. We have been asked for comment by December 1st.
 - **Janssen/Peacefield** (Alexandria Twp.) – Very close to closing, thinks it will close this year. Final closing review

- **Thomas Farm** (East Amwell Twp.) – Got final approval from Freeholders last Tuesday. Will be on the SADC agenda December 3rd.
- **Magnolia Creek Farm** (Franklin Twp.) – Franklin Township no longer has open space tax. Will be going to committee meeting on October 22nd to see about funding options.
- **Onuschak Farm** (Franklin Twp.) – Final approval from Freeholders last Tuesday, will also be on the SADC agenda December 3rd.
- **Grochowicz** (Hampton, Glen Gardner, Bethlehem, CPIG) – Had a productive meeting today with SADC, they have had productive meetings with Highlands. However, under the current grant funding it could be many more months before they can come to an agreement. Bob will come back to this board next month to discuss other funding options. May have to involve Municipalities, previously Highlands was going to cover the county and municipal portion.
- **Silva Farm** (Holland Twp.) – Is in closing review with SADC.
- **Martin DeSapio Farm** (Kingwood Twp.) – Freeholders signed the contract, Bob awarded the survey today.
- Had a new application come in, from Franklin Twp. Not on targeted farm list. Owned by Brenden Furlong, located in Franklin and Alexandria Twp. Meets all minimum criteria for target farms and land owner has expressed interest. If he applied for preservation one of the criteria is they have to be on the target farm list. So by taking care of this now will save time. Is in the ADA, has road frontage on County Rd. 513 to Pittstown Rd. Municipal boarder cuts through the middle of the farm. Bob did a site visit last week, has a nice operation going on there. Chairman Bond ask for a MOTION to add to the CPIG Target Farms List. Liz Schmid made a MOTION, Dave Kyle SECONDED. All in Favor by voice vote.
- **PSE&G** tower replacement project has been approved by the SADC.

Monitoring Update- Bob stated he and Kevin went on a site visit for a complaint in East Amwell. Considerable work needs to be done on the property. He'll get back to the board on that with more updates. Kevin called in later, nothing really new. He also, spoke about the same property Bob mentioned. Had mowing situations previously, owner has begun mowing. Farm mentioned in previous meetings in West Amwell Township has been mowed. Up to 60 farms monitored since July.

SADC Updates:

Bob updated on behalf of SADC.

- Bob stated he had spoken earlier in the day with Stefanie; she wasn't sure she could make it. He listened in on the SADC meeting, nothing much to report. Grochowicz discussions are ongoing.

Chair Comments:

- Chairman Bond asked Bob about the Curtis farm in Delaware Twp. The landowner went through the County Open Space Committee and got a grant with SADC to cover half, County Open Space with cover the rest. NJCF will hold the easement.

Old Business:

- None at this time.

New Business:

- Resolution 2020-15: Ag Labor Housing Request on a Preserved Farm
 - Readington Block 80 Lot 1 – **TABLED UNTIL NEXT MEETING.**

Right To Farm Matters:

- Commercial Farm Certification
 - **Boreland Farm, Franklin Twp. Block 20 Lot 2** – Shana stated they pulled this evening to do further proof of income research. **TABLED UNTIL NEXT MEETING.**
- SSAMP Hearing -
 - **Beneduce Vineyards (Alexandria Block 21 Lot 41.31)**
 - Counsel asked the board for a MOTION to open Public Hearing on Beneduce Vineyards and carry it to special meeting on October 29, 2020 at 7:00pm in the assembly room. Bob Hoffman made the MOTION, Liz Schmid SECONDED. All in favor by voice vote.

Public Comment: Board Member commented on Gov. Murphy proposal to stop the bear hunt for next year. Chairman Bond asked Bob to write a letter on behalf of the board to Gov. Murphy telling him they are against it. Barbara Sachau Raritan Twp. expressed that she is in favor of ending the bear hunt.

Adjournment: MOTION for adjournment made by Ted Harwick, Robert Hoffman SECONDED. All in favor, Meeting Adjourned