

SUSSEX COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MINUTES

MARCH 21, 2016

The meeting opened at 7:36 p.m. by Chairperson Pro tem Pattison in the Freeholder Meeting Room at the Sussex County Administrative Center, One Spring Street, Newton, New Jersey. The meeting was held in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-1 of 1975, as amended. Notice has been forwarded to the newspapers and posted on the bulletin board maintained at the Sussex County Administrative Center for public announcement.

ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brian Hautau (7:45 p.m.)
Jim Hunt
Cece Pattison
Joan Snook Smith
Peter Southway

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Jane Brodhecker, Chairperson
Lori Day, Vice Chairperson

STAFF PRESENT: Autumn Sylvester, Program Manager
Rudy Dragan, Planning Aide
Antoinette Wasiewicz, Recording Secretary

ALSO PRESENT: Steve Komar, Rutgers Cooperative Extension
Len Wesslehoff, Lafayette Township
Jason Wesslehoff, Lafayette Township

MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:

A motion was made by Joan Snook Smith to accept the Minutes of January 19, 2016 as presented. The motion was seconded by Jim Hunt. All were in favor, with an abstention from Peter Southway. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A. SADC UPDATE:

A letter was received from Stefanie Miller with an SADC update. The SADC is waiting for the title and survey for the Duddy, Paladino and Gianatassio farms. Autumn reported that she received the Paladino survey and it is currently being reviewed by the Engineering office. She has not received the Duddy and Gianatassio survey yet. Gianatassio has a lot line readjustment so they need to get subdivision approval before the survey can be finalized and resubmitted.

Autumn said she is waiting for the Mulvaney appraisals to come in and then they can be sent to the State. For Municipal Planning Incentive Grants, the Bert Smith farm and the Dana Ray farm have received final approval from the Freeholders at their March 9th meeting. She believes it is on the SADC's agenda for their meeting this Thursday. Frankford will be handling the survey.

B. NJ AUDUBON REQUEST:

A request was received from John Parke from NJ Audubon for a letter of support for their NFWF Targeted Watershed Implementation Grant application. This focuses on the Delaware River Watershed area. The SCADB sent a letter of support last year.

C. SADC LETTER TO WESTFALL WINERY:

The SADC sent a letter to Westfall Winery reminding them to submit a Special Events Registration if they are subject to the Special Occasion Events Law. The SADC will also send out a questionnaire to help them better understand the role that special events play in marketing wine and in supporting the viability of the winery operation.

RIGHT TO FARM:

None

AG. AGENT'S REPORT:

Steve Komar reported that they just finished the last winter meeting which covered disease management. They are currently looking to finish crop production, barley trial and birdseed. Steve also said they are partnering with people from the south to incorporate cranberries into a birdseed blend.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. FY 2013 APPLICATION UPDATE:

Autumn reported that the Libby farm is not going through with the Farmland Preservation process. When asked why they decided to pull out, Autumn said it was the offer and the time it took to get the contract to them.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. WESSEHOFF COMMERCIAL FARM CERTIFICATION RESOLUTION:

The Board reviewed the Wesslehoff Commercial Farm Certification at the last meeting. Autumn prepared a Resolution adopting the Board's findings.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Joan Snook Smith to approve the Resolution for the Commercial Farm Certification for the Wesslehoff farm. The motion was seconded by Brian Hautau. All were in favor, with an abstention from Peter Southway.

Autumn said it is now a requirement that the Board do a site visit of the farm. The Board discussed dates to visit the farm and decided on Thursday, March 31 at 10:00 a.m.

B. VAN WINGERDEN BUSINESS PLAN:

The Business Plan for the Van Wingerden farm was received. The Board discussed the Business Plan and whether or not they wanted to preserve this farm at this time. After a lengthy discussion, they decided they would discuss the Van Wingerden farm at next month's meeting with the full Board.

C. LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR NJ AUDUBON:

Autumn prepared a letter of support for NJ Audubon in support of their NFWF Targeted Watershed Implementation Grant application. The letter was provided to the Board for their approval.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Jim Hunt that the Board authorize Autumn to send the letter of support to NJ Audubon. The motion was seconded by Peter Southway and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

All business having been completed, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Joan Snook Smith. The motion was seconded by Brian Hautau and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.