

SUSSEX COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MINUTES

JUNE 15, 2015

The meeting opened at 7:30 p.m. by Chairperson Brodhecker 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: Jane Brodhecker, Chairperson
Lori Day, Vice Chairperson
Brian Hautau (7:38 p.m.)
Cece Pattison
Joan Snook Smith

STAFF PRESENT: Autumn Sylvester, Program Manager
Rudy Dragan, Planning Aide
Steve Komar, Rutgers Cooperative Extension
Antoinette Wasiewicz, Recording Secretary

ALSO PRESENT: None

MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:

A motion was made by Joan Snook Smith to accept the Minutes of May 18, 2015 as presented. The motion was seconded by Cece Pattison. All were in favor, with an abstention by Lori Day and Brian Hautau. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A. ARTICLES OF INTEREST:

The Board thanked Autumn for providing them with these articles but agreed that it was not necessary to go through them at the meeting.

B. SPECIAL EVENTS AT WINERIES:

Autumn reported that there has been correspondence between the CADB Administrators in other counties and the SADC regarding special events at wineries. They included attachments from Oregon and West Virginia and winery legislation. Autumn said the Board may want to review these attachments and consider adopting a policy but suggested that they do so when the full Board is present.

Jane said this is related to the winery legislation that expires in two years. She said the SADC may be a little cautious about adopting policy until after a trial period. Autumn said there is only one preserved winery in Sussex County and that it has a five-acre exception area.

C. CADB UPDATE FROM STEFANIE MILLER:

An SADC update was received from Stefanie Miller. Sussex County has seven farms with final approval. Autumn said today she received the Deed and closing documents for the Klein farm, so we should be closing on that farm shortly. The Mulvaney farm was resubmitted for Green Light Approval in May. They received an access agreement from the County. The SADC will be reviewing the four Sussex County farms for final approval.

The memo also gave an update on Planning Incentive Grants, SADC Direct Easement Purchase, Future Funding, Soil Disturbance and a new NJ Land Link Website.

AG. AGENT'S REPORT:

Steve reported that Patty, the Rutgers Cooperative Extension secretary, submitted her resignation letter on the afternoon of the first reading of the budget. They are trying to reallocate the money to either rehire someone for that position or put in a new proposal.

Steve said it has been very dry during June and they have had some unusual calls from homeowners regarding insects and disease. Also, the gypsy moth problem has flared up in some areas. Crops are behind schedule due to the lack of rain and now it is raining during hay season. There is about a 25-50% yield reduction in the first hay cutting crop.

Steve also said there has been a rash of right-to-farm issues and complains about ag. practices. They are having the first mediation in the County.

The Ag. Curriculum at the college is moving forward. Rutgers is trying to partner with the college for internships, etc.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. COUNTY OPEN SPACE TRUST FUND:

At their June 10 meeting, the Freeholders approved a Resolution to authorize the placement of a Public Question on the Official Ballot concerning a proposition authorizing the County to continue a Trust Fund in order to acquire lands for Farmland Preservation, Recreation and Open Space. There was a brief discussion about the meeting.

B. FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM:

Klein – Autumn said she just received the Deed and closing documents for the Klein farm. This farm will close as soon as she can get all the signatures. Dennis McConnell hopes to close on this farm before he retires on June 30.

Sella – The Sella farm should also be closing shortly. Autumn said she is waiting for the surveyor to send her the revised survey, which she hopes to have next week.

The FY 2013 Applications are on the SADC's June Agenda. Hopefully, these farms will be approved and then Autumn can resubmit the Request for Quotes for the surveyors.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. FY 2016 PIG APPLICATION:

Autumn reported that the County's PIG application was approved at the May 28, 2015 SADC meeting. At the present time, she does not know how much funding will be available.

B. SYBERG APPRAISAL:

Autumn provided the Board with the two Title Sheets from the Appraisal Reports for the Syberg farm. There was a brief discussion regarding the appraised values. This farm is being preserved through The Land Conservancy of New Jersey.

C. CARETTA GREEN LIGHT APPROVAL:

The Caretta farm in Green Township received conditional Green Light review. Once information is received from The Land Conservancy, the Board can do a Resolution of Support.

D. MULVANEY:

Autumn said she resubmitted the Mulvaney application and new forms for Green Light Approval for this farm.

Autumn reported on the tractor donation ceremony that she and Cece attended two weeks ago.

Lori asked Jane if there was anything new with the Brodhecker Right-to-Farm issue. Jane said she has not heard anything. Brian advised Autumn that Tom VanWingerden is interested in reapplying for Farmland Preservation. The farm has about 100 acres and is located in Hampton Township

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 Lori Day and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.