

SUSSEX COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

MINUTES

OCTOBER 17, 2011

The meeting opened at 7:38 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
Jim Hunt
Cece Pattison
Joan Snook Smith

MEMBERS EXCUSED: None

STAFF PRESENT: Donna Traylor, CADB Coordinator
Antoinette Wasiewicz, Recording Secretary
Steve Komar, County Agricultural Agent

ALSO PRESENT: Brian Smith, Esq., SADC

Please note that due to a recording system failure, these Minutes were prepared from notes and memory.

Also note that it was not made known until after this meeting that the terms of three Board members expired on September 30, 2011, thereby making this an unofficial meeting.

MINUTES CORRECTION/APPROVAL:

A motion was made by Joan Snook Smith to approve the Minutes of May 16, 2011 as presented. The motion was seconded by Brian Hautau and carried unanimously.

For the Minutes of June 20, 2011, an error was noted on Page 11, third paragraph, first sentence under Public Comment. "... and a Freeholder" should be changed to "... not a Freeholder." A motion was made by Jim Hunt to approve the Minutes of June 20, 2011 as corrected. The motion was seconded by Joan Snook Smith and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Jim Hunt to approve the Minutes of July 18, 2011 as presented. The motion was seconded by Joan Snook Smith. All were in favor, with abstentions from Jane Brodhecker and Lori Day. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Brian Hautau to approve the Minutes of August 15, 2011 as presented. The motion was seconded by Joan Snook Smith. All were in favor with an abstention from CeCe Pattison. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A. GREEN LIGHT APPROVAL: LANE, WANTAGE, SADC, 8/25/11:

Correspondence has been received from the SADC advising that they granted Green Light Approval to the Lane application in Wantage Township. This approval authorizes the County to contract for appraisals on the farm. The application is still subject to review and approval by the Committee.

B. VAN WINGERDEN SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION PROJECT, SADC, 8/25/11:

At its meeting on July 28, 2011, the SADC reviewed and granted final approval of soil and water conservation cost-share funds for William and Charmaine Van Wingerden. The project must be completed within three years from the date of SADC final approval. Final payment is contingent upon completion of the projects in accordance with the State Soil Conservation Committee's rules.

C. TOMMASO CERTIFICATION OF VALUE, SADC, 8/31/11:

A Final Approval Resolution was received from the SADC for a Planning Incentive Grant to Sussex County for the purchase of a development easement for the Louis Tommaso farm in Green Township.

D. SCBOA GRANT MATCH MONEY, R. CUTLER, 9/1/11:

A letter was received from Robert Culter, S.C. Board of Agriculture Treasurer advising that they were providing their profit of \$821.75 back to the County to be used as either match money for future grants for agri/ecotourism or as funding for costs not covered by grants for projects proposed and run through the Sussex County Office of Conservation and Farmland Preservation for agri/ecotourism.

E. FY 2013 PIG ANNUAL SUBMISSION, SADC, 9/7/11:

A memo was received from the SADC to remind County PIG participants of the program requirements in advance of the FY 2013 application period.

F. P&R APPRAISALS: HAVEN, WANTAGE, 9/7/11:

A letter was received from Richard Ward, a review appraiser retained by the SADC. Mr. Ward did a review appraisal on work done by McChesney Appraisal for the Havens #2 farm in Wantage Township. Mr. Ward said the subject after value was appraised as though there are two residential opportunities remaining to the subject in the form of exceptions. SADC records indicate that there is only one residential opportunity. He suggested that the appraiser should address the impact on value of this change.

G. GREEN TOWNSHIP PIG, 9/14/11:

A letter was received from Linda Peralta, Administrator for Green Township advising the SCADB of their intention to submit a draft Comprehensive Farmland Preservation Plan Update and Planning Incentive Grant application by the December 15th SADC deadline. This notification the CADB is being done as required by the SADC, 90 days in advance of the SADC December 15th deadline.

H. OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARMER NOMINATIONS, 9/19/11:

A memo was received from NJ Department of Agriculture announcing that they are accepting nominations for the 2013 Outstanding Young Farmer Award. A program overview and Official State Nomination Form were included.

I. AGRICULTURE LEARNING CENTER UPDATE, K. CAFASSO, 9/23/11:

An e-mail was received from Kathy Cafasso thanking the SCADB for their support for the Agricultural Learning Center at the Fairgrounds. Ms. Cafasso gave an update on some of the projects they are planning next year.

J. SC VETERANS CARD, J. PARROT, SEPTEMBER 2011:

A letter was received from Jeff Parrott, Acting Sussex County Clerk, advising that he collaborated with Sheriff Mike Strada and Senator Steve Oroho to offer local U.S. Veterans a new courtesy Veteran I.D. Card. The card offers veterans a special discount on various goods and services. Mr. Parrott, with the Sussex County Chamber of Commerce asks businesses that wish to participate in the Veteran Discount Program to fill out and return the form included in the letter. A list of participating businesses and their discounts will be available on the Sussex County Clerk's website at www.sussexcountyclerk.com.

K. SADC OPEN POSITIONS, 10/5/11:

An e-mail was received from the SADC announcing that they are looking to fill a position for Chief of Ag Resources and Southern Acquisition Coordinator. Contact information was included in the message. The deadline date for applying is October 31.

L. NJ AGRICULTURE AND OPEN SPACE FUNDING:

A Press Release was received from the Governor's office announcing that Governor Christie signed several measures that keep New Jersey green by providing \$90.6 million in grants to counties, towns and nonprofit organizations to preserve farmland across the Garden State and fund State-initiated farmland preservation projects. He also signed A-2342 to further enhance the visibility and accessibility of "Jersey Fresh" produce and "Made with Jersey Fresh" items at food concessions in state agencies.

M. SOLAR AMP, SADC:

An AMP for the Construction, Installation, Operation or Maintenance of Solar Energy Generation Facilities, Structures and Equipment on Commercial Farms was received.

N. FEDERAL GRANT TO PROMOTE GS AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS:

A Press Release was received from the NJ Department of Agriculture regarding the United States Department of Agriculture announcement that New Jersey will receive a \$792,245 Specialty Crop Block Grant for 20 initiatives to benefit Garden State crops such as fruits, vegetables, horticulture and nursery. The projects to be funded by New Jersey's grant were listed.

O. NJ WINE GROWERS LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:

The New Jersey Wine Growers Association issued a plea for support. State licenses for wineries to sell their product expired July 1 and the division of Alcoholic Beverage control won't renew them because of a 2010 federal court ruling. Current license-holders will be permitted to continue to sell wine at existing tasting rooms or other outlets, but no new outlets or wineries can be opened. New Jersey winemakers, unable to get legislative help before lawmakers left town for the holiday weekend, are waiting for a federal judge to decide the fate of the state's growing wine industry. The NJ Wine Growers Association asked supporters to contact key government officials whose names and e-mail addresses were included on the website.

RIGHT TO FARM:

None

RUTGERS AGRICULTURE AGENT'S REPORT:

Steve Komar gave a brief report on the Ag. Conference Grant, Annie's Project and new video equipment.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. AGRITOURISM UPDATES:

The Harvest Festival was a success. Attendance was approximately 3,000. The Farmers Market at the festival also did well.

B. EVERETT FARM, FRANKFORD TWP.: SUMMONS AND RESPONSE:

County Counsel is working on this ongoing violation.

C. UPDATE ON CLOSINGS AND FINAL APPROVALS:

D. MONITORING UPDATE:

Monitoring on permanently preserved farms is progressing as time is available.

E. NOTICE OF 2013 COUNTY PIG PROCESS:

An updated application/project area package is due to the SADC by mid-December.

F. LAND CONSERVANCY OF NJ – FARM APPLICATIONS UPDATE:

Until more SADC certifications are received for existing County applications, the County will not know whether there is funding available for these Land Conservancy applications.

G. TENNESSEE GAS PIPELINE NOTICE, 10/11/11:

Once a final route is determined, we will know if it impacts any preserved farms

NEW BUSINESS:

A. REQUEST FOR SUBDIVISION OF PREMISES, E. COSH, WANTAGE TWP - RESOLUTION:

The Board discussed the Subdivision of Premises request from Ernest and Marilyn Cosh.

MOTION:

A motion was made by Joan Snook Smith to accept the Subdivision of Premises request for the Ernest and Marilyn Cosh farm in Wantage Township. The motion was seconded by Brian Hautau and carried unanimously. A Resolution will need to be prepared and voted on.

B. FEMA PRESENTATION:

The FEMA Representative did not show up for this evening's meeting.

C. 2011 APPRAISAL REPORT UPDATE (CONFIDENTIAL):

Appraisals will need to be certified by the SADC before offers can be made to the landowners.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

All business having been completed, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Lori Day. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.