

MONMOUTH COUNTY
AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Joseph McCarthy
Chairman



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Minutes for a Regular Meeting of the
MONMOUTH COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Tuesday, March 4, 2014, 7:30 PM

Planning Board Conference Room, Hall of Records Annex, 2nd Floor
One East Main Street, Freehold, New Jersey

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Bullock, Buscaglia, Butch, Clayton, Giambrone, Grbelja, Holmes, McCarthy, Potter, Sciarappa
Staff: Beekman, Brockwell, Honigfeld
Representatives: Bob Faber
Public: Hope Gruzlovic, Monica & Rick LaRue, James Lynott, Patty Primost

MINUTES:

Approval of February Regular Minutes: Minor changes were recommended to the draft minutes. Ms. Butch made a motion to approve the minutes with changes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Grbelja and approved by voice vote.

Approval of February Executive Session Minutes: Mr. Potter made a motion to approve the executive session minutes. Mr. Bullock seconded the motion that was approved by voice vote.

CORRESPONDENCE AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

Staff shared the SADC newsletter.

REGULAR REPORTS:

- A. Chairman: No Report.
- B. State: Ms. Gruzlovic updated the board on the 2012 Census of Agriculture data that has been released for New Jersey.
- C. Staff: Ms. Honigfeld updated the board on the most recent closing that took place on the Cicalese farm in Colts Neck, a closing date is scheduled for the Conover farm in Wall for an easement to be held by Monmouth Conservation Foundation, the Land Trust Rally is being held in late March, and the SADC/NOFA are hosting leasing workshops for farmers.
- D. Rutgers Cooperative Extension: Dr. Sciarappa updated the board on the Central Jersey vegetable growers meeting, Board of Agriculture dinner, the organizational budget, and new hires for fruit agent and ocean marine agent.
- E. Municipal Representatives: No reports.



OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

- **2013 Farmland Preservation Program Accomplishments and Year-end Summary:** The chairman and staff gave an overview of the events and accomplishments for the program. Chairman McCarthy noted the importance of monitoring our easements annually.

RIGHT TO FARM ISSUES:

- **Status Reports:** Staff provided the board with an update regarding the pending LaRue applications and Seven Bridges Winery matter.
- **Continuation Hearing for 148 South Main Street LLC Conflict Resolution:** Staff provided a summary of where we left off from the first hearing that took place in December 2013 and requested any questions. The chairman called for any discussion from the board. The board had no further questions.

Mr. Butch made a motion to approve the operation for eligibility under the definition of a commercial farm and to acknowledge that board has jurisdiction to hear the matter. A roll call vote was taken after Mr. Giambrone seconded the motion. Mr. Buscaglia, Mr. Potter and Ms. Grbelja abstained.

Ms. Butch made the following motion in favor of the activities qualifying for Right to Farm protection:

1. That the brush pile and activities taking place do not pose a threat to health and public safety.
2. That the farmer is providing sufficient bathroom facilities.
3. That the lights are necessary for safety.

Mr. Bullock seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken, with Mr. Buscaglia, Mr. Potter and Ms. Grbelja abstaining. The motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Primost asked the board if anyone spoke to Carmine Casola about removing the pile. Staff answered that the landowner had indicated that he planned to remove the pile once the weather broke. The board provided clarification that since the landowner is protected under the Right to Farm Act, he has no legal obligation to remove that pile, but that removal of the pile was recommended as a “good neighbor” practice.

Mrs. LaRue requested an update on the status of the second SSAMP application that was recently amended and resubmitted in late February. She requested that the board begin reviewing the application despite still not having a completed NRCS plan.

Staff explained that the staff level review had already begun; however, the matter would not progress to a hearing without the NRCS plan.

The board explained that the review will require time to complete given the additional amendments that were only received in late February. A RTF subcommittee meeting will be needed for adequate due diligence.

Mr. LaRue went on to explain that he feels they are not being held to the same standard as other applicants.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 PM.