

MONMOUTH COUNTY
AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Joseph McCarthy
Chairman



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

Wednesday, April 3, 2013, 7:30 PM

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

Chairman McCarthy called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Bullock, Buscaglia, Butch, Clayton, DeFelice, Giambrone, Holmes, McCarthy, Potter, Sciarappa
Staff: Beekman, Brockwell, Honigfeld
Representatives: Sandy Michlich (Howell), John Jacoby (Colts Neck), Tom Chenal (Marlboro)
Public: Monica LaRue, Rick LaRue, Susan Payne, Joseph Barris, James Abate, Robert Moore

MINUTES:

Mr. Bullock made a motion to approve the Regular Session minutes of the March 2013 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. DeFelice and approved by voice vote.

CORRESPONDENCE AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

Staff brought the following documents to the attention of the board:

- 2012 Farmland Preservation Program Accomplishments and Year-end Summary.

REGULAR REPORTS:

- A. Chairman: No report.
- B. State: Susan Payne updated the board on the recent SADC adoption of the final rules for the Solar Energy AMP, which will next be sent to the NJ Register for a 60-day comment period. The On-Farm Direct Marketing AMP has also been approved by the SADC and will enter into a 60-day comment period. In response to the \$83 million in farmland preservation funding that was recently appropriated by Governor Christie, the SADC will be hosting "Open House" style meetings across the State to foster interest in the State Direct Easement Program as well as offer an opportunity for stakeholders to learn about the program in general.
- C. Staff: Ms. Honigfeld announced the closing of the Diamond Developers at Burke Farm earlier in the month. The +/- 97 acre farm in Manalapan is now permanently preserved.
- D. Rutgers Cooperative Extension: Dr. Sciarappa updated the board on the MC Board of Agriculture dinner that was held in March at the American Hotel and was a very well attended event.



Additionally, 18 people recently graduated from a new training program targeting women, but also open to others, for agriculture business skills. The Open Space Pace planning committee continues to meet and prepare for the annual event. They recently secured high visibility advertising space for the event. The Monmouth County Park System is considering including a farm stand at the annual County Fair. The details of the proposal are still being considered in consultation with the Monmouth County Board of Agriculture. Lastly, Dr. Sciarappa noted the birth of several eagle chicks that have been sighted at the Shark River and Manasquan Inlets over Easter. Considering eagles were near extinction not long ago, this seems to be a good indicator of water quality and species restoration efforts.

E. Municipal Representatives: No reports.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Memorialization of Resolution Finding Violation of Deed of Easement and Requiring Abatement (Block 45, Lot 10.03, Millstone Township):**

Mr. Potter made a motion to memorialize the resolution that was adopted at the previous meeting. Mr. Clayton seconded the motion that was approved by roll call vote.

RIGHT TO FARM ISSUES:

- **Right to Farm Complaint Hearing (Block 884, Lot 1.02, Middletown):**

Mr. Potter recused himself from the matter.

Staff provided an overview of the complaint to the board with a presentation highlighting pictures from the site visit and the fence in question. Dr. Sciarappa provided background information about the property and the viticulture operation. The board held a brief discussion regarding the agriculture production on the parcel and the deer problem in the area.

Mr. Bullock made a motion that the parcel should be considered a commercial farm and the fence has been installed for wildlife management purposes to protect the vines and trees from deer damage. Ms. Butch seconded the motion that was approved by roll call vote.

Closed Open Session at 8:07pm

Entered Closed Session

Returned back into Open Session at 8:23 and held roll call attendance

- **SADC Presentation:**

Susan Payne gave a presentation to the board and audience regarding Right to Farm procedures, current and proposed, along with information about the On-Farm Direct Marketing AMP that was recently approved by the SADC and will soon be on the NJ Register for public comment.

- **RTF Status Reports:** Mrs. Brockwell updated the board about the Seven Bridges Winery SSAMP application that is pending a hearing. A site visit was held on March 18th.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Monica LaRue made the following comments:

- Requested to see a copy of the 2012 annual report. Staff agreed to post it on the website.
- Noted the difficulty of the acoustics in the room and how difficult it is to hear what the board is saying. Chairman McCarthy acknowledged the board's awareness of the

problem and the limited resources that are available to provide a microphone system. Staff noted that adjustment of the HVAC system will be requested from the Buildings and Grounds staff.

- Requested information as to what education is being given to municipalities about Right to Farm. Susan Payne advised that SADC staff has been in contact with the League of Municipalities to express its willingness to provide information and presentations to any interested town.
- Similarly, requested information as to education that is being conducted by the SADC to ensure that Judges are aware of Right to Farm. Susan Payne advised Ms. LaRue that several training sessions have been hosted on the topic in the past. Additionally, she welcomed any ideas people have to raise awareness.
- Inquired as to when the new RTF procedural changes will become law. Susan Payne responded that she expects they will be final by the end of this year.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.