

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, June 5, 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: Buscaglia, Clayton, DeFelice, Foster, Giambrone, McCarthy, Potter, Sciarappa, Stuart
Staff: Beekman, Brockwell, Honigfeld
Representatives: John Jacoby (Colts Neck), Jack McNaboe (Manalapan)
Public: Hope Gruzlovic

MINUTES:

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

Mr. Potter made a motion to approve the Executive Session minutes of the May 2013 meeting. Mr. Buscaglia seconded the motion that was approved by voice vote.

CORRESPONDENCE AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

None

REGULAR REPORTS:

- A. Chairman: No report.
- B. State: Ms. Gruzlovic announced that the Solar Energy AMP rules are now in place. The On-Farm Direct Marketing AMP will be published in the June 17th NJ Register for a 60-day comment period. She also mentioned the Open Space sales tax initiative that is moving through the approval process.
- C. Staff: Ms. Honigfeld noted that Municipal Farmland Preservation Plan comments for Colts Neck have been received and should lead to plan finalization soon. She also provided more information about the non-contiguous clustering bill that was approved by the legislature and will provide municipalities with another tool to preserve land. On June 17th at 7 PM the Monmouth County Library Headquarters will host a panel discussion on the standardbred horse industry.



Rutgers Cooperative Extension: Dr. Sciarappa noted that hay and grain crops are growing well and farmers are beginning to bail. He updated the board about a 2-day session held at Stokes State Forest to discuss the organization's strategic planning initiatives and hiring of personnel. The specialty crop group was recognized and awarded for achievements in marketing. The soil testing program is being utilized by farmers. He also discussed the post-Super Storm Sandy issues that are observed in lakes with close proximity to the ocean that now have sand in them and less capacity that will lead to increased flooding issues if unaddressed. Grants have been acquired to plant tree species that will help block sand from infiltrating lakes during future storms. Finally, the Freehold RU Cooperative Extension office is looking for a 4-H leader and 4-H secretary.

D. Municipal Representatives: No reports.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **General Policy 8:**

Ms. Honigfeld provided background about the draft document to help explain the context. She shared that it was partially modeled after existing State guidelines and that the draft has been reviewed by various state and county staff for initial feedback.

Mr. Stuart noted that the context of the proposed draft is too broad and that the focus should be on the farm quality not the individual. Ms. Honigfeld provided additional clarification regarding the intent of the policy to properly address program applications submitted by sitting municipal officials. State policy does not address this category of official since many other counties do not require municipal cost share participation. The relevance of the policy to the recent issues related to the Diamond Developers LLC acquisition was noted.

Mr. Foster shared his concern with creating a policy that would be a reaction to a one-case scenario. He continued with the importance of municipal officials recusing themselves from any discussion or vote related to farmland preservation when they have a personal stake.

Chairman McCarthy summarized his concern in not being comfortable with creating a policy that is based on the "potential" for a conflict, irrelevant of if there is actually a conflict.

Mr. Potter noted the concern of such a policy would function when a property is owned by a corporation with various undisclosed share holders.

The board decided not to take any action at this time.

RIGHT TO FARM ISSUES:

- **Status Reports:**

Seven Bridges Winery – The application that is currently incomplete. A hearing will be scheduled once requested information has been submitted with sufficient time for the planning staff, engineering staff, and board to review it.

Mr. Buscaglia noted the importance of not progressing to a hearing until the requested information has been submitted by the applicant.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Closed Regular Session at 8:37 PM

Entered Executive Session

Returned back into Regular Session at 8:53 PM and took roll call attendance

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Potter made a motion to close the meeting. Mr. Foster seconded the motion that was approved by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.