

MINUTES
MORRIS COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Washington Township Senior Center
off East Springtown Road in Rock Spring Park, Long Valley, NJ
April 2, 2009

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Roehrich at 7:58 p.m. Members present:

Aimee Ashley Myers
Dale Davis
Greg Keller
Harvey Ort
Jay Thomson
Kenneth Wightman

Also in attendance:

Peter Nitzsche, Morris County Rutgers Cooperative Extension

Staff in attendance:

Frank Pinto
W. Randall Bush, Esq.
Ray Chang
Katherine Coyle
Jennifer McCulloch

SPECIAL NOTE

Due to equipment failure, the recording of this meeting is not available. Minutes of the meeting were compiled from the hand-written notes drafted by Ms. Katherine Coyle and Ms. Jennifer McCulloch, who attended the meeting.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW

Chairman Roehrich announced that in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, adequate notice of this meeting has been provided and filed with the Town of Morristown, the Morris County Clerk, the Daily Record and the Star Ledger.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of member Keller, seconded by member Ashley Myers, the board approved the minutes of the March 19, 2009 special meeting. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Davis, Keller, Ort, Thomson and Roehrich

Nay: None Abstain: Wightman

On motion of member Ashley Myers, seconded by member Keller, the board approved the minutes of the March 19, 2009 regular meeting. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Davis, Keller, Ort, Thomson and Roehrich

Nay: None Abstain: Wightman

OPEN TO PUBLIC FOR NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no comments by the public.

CLOSED SESSION

On motion of member Wightman, seconded by member Ashley Myers, the board closed the open portion of the meeting and voted to conduct a closed session.

RETURN TO MEETING

The meeting reopened to the public at 8:42 p.m.

ACTIONS RESULTING FROM CLOSED SESSION

Greenway Flowers Farm. On motion of member Keller, seconded by member Wightman, the board agreed to make an offer to the owners of Greenway Flowers Farm for the amount agreed upon during Closed Session. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Davis, Keller, Ort, Thomson, Wightman and Roehrich

Nay: None Abstain: None

REPORT OF DIRECTOR

“Top 5”. Ms. Coyle directed the board members to the “Top 5” of the month. The top five project activities for the months of March/April were: 1) current applications: Scheller, DeNeufville, Terry, McLaughlin, Linz, Pyznar, Bob Smith (notifications re: preliminary approval), 2) new applications: Richardi, Williams, Dragunas (scheduling site visits), 3) pending: Gorda (prep. of SADC application); 4) pending: Post, Hickey (appraisal work prep.), and 5) pending: Fairmount, Lancor, S. Peach, Greenway Flowers, Cobb (closing prep.)

SADC Interpretation of the Alternative Appraisal Provision (pre-Highlands). Ms. Coyle informed the board that the SADC informed all CADBs of its interpretation of the “Alternative Appraisal Provision” within the Garden State Preservation Trust (GSPT) Act. According to this SADC interpretation, the following requirements must be met if a landowner wants to obtain pre-Highlands appraisal values:

1. The CADBs must file a cost-share application with the SADC by June 30, 2009.
2. Appraisals shall be conducted and submitted to the SADC within 180 days of the SADC’s approval of the application.
3. All appraisals must have a market valuation date no later than June 30, 2009.

4. Funding for the acquisition of the development easement or land in fee simple title must be provided through Garden State Preservation Trust (GSPT) funds.

The board directed staff to inform owners of all farms located within the Highlands Preservation Area regarding the SADC's interpretation of the "Alternative Appraisal Provision" within the Garden State Preservation Trust (GSPT) Act.

May 14, 2009 – Joint Meeting with the Board of Agriculture. Mr. Nitzsche informed the board that the Board of Agriculture wishes to hold a joint meeting with the Morris CADB. The Board of Agriculture will invite the NJ Secretary of Agriculture, Douglas Fisher, to visit Morris County for a tour of Morris County's farms and to attend the joint meeting.

RIGHT TO FARM

Mendham Twp. Ordinance Regulating Intensity of Farm Uses. Ms. Coyle informed the board that according to the Township Administrator, Steve Mountain, the Township Council would review the CADB's March 4, 2009 comments at a regularly-scheduled meeting. It is anticipated that a meeting between the CADB and the Township Representatives would take place following the review.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to review.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution 2009-13 – Revised Final Approval: Fairmount, Washington Twp. On motion of member Ashley Myers, seconded by member Wightman, the board adopted Resolution 2009-13. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Davis, Keller, Ort, Wightman and Roehrich

Nay: Thomson Abstain: None

At this point chairman Roehrich left the meeting room.

Resolution 2009-14 – Preliminary Approval: Dragunas, Washington Twp. On motion of member Ashley Myers, seconded by member Davis, the board adopted Resolution 2009-14. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Davis, Keller, Ort, Thomson and Wightman

Nay: None Abstain: None

At this point chairman Roehrich returned to the meeting room.

Resolution 2009-15 –Preliminary Approval: Richardi, Washington Twp. On motion of member Davis, seconded by member Ashley Myers, the board adopted Resolution 2009-15. A roll call vote was taken.

Aye: Ashley Myers, Davis, Keller, Ort, Thomson, Wightman and Roehrich

Nay: None Abstain: None

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion of member Ashley Myers, seconded by member Thomson, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Coyle
Assistant Director