

# Hunterdon County Agriculture Development Board Meeting

March 14, 2019 @ 8:00 pm

314 Route 12 County Complex  
Building #1 | Assembly Room  
Flemington, New Jersey

## **Members in Attendance:**

Dave Bond  
Robert Hoffman Jr.  
Susan Blew  
David C. Kyle  
Liz Schmid  
John Van Nuys  
Gerry Lyness  
Ted Harwick  
John Perehinys  
Marc Phillips  
Roger "Forest" Locandro  
Kevin Milz

## **CADB Staff Present:**

Shana Taylor, Esq. County Counsel  
Aaron Culton, Esq. County Counsel  
Bob Hornby, CADB Administrator  
Adam Bradford, CADB Staff

## **Open Public Meeting Act:**

### **Chairman Bond opened the meeting at 8:00 p.m. and read the Open Public Meeting Act:**

*"This meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meeting Act. Adequate notice has been provided by prominently posting and maintaining so posted throughout the year on the first floor of the County Administration Building, Main St., Flemington, New Jersey a public place reserved for such announcements, and by mailing on or before January 11, 2019, to The Hunterdon Democrat, Star Ledger, The Trenton Times, The Courier News and The Express Times newspapers, and TAPInto newspaper and designated by the Hunterdon County Agriculture Development Board to receive such notices, and by filing with the Hunterdon County Clerk a schedule of the times and dates of such meetings."*

## **Pledge of Allegiance:**

**Roll Call:** Excused; Megan Muehlbauer

## **Approval of Minutes**

- Liz Schmid made a MOTION to approve the February 14th minutes with minor spelling corrections. Susan Blew SECONDED. MOTION Passed, Members Perehinys, Phillips, and Locandro Abstained.

## **Communications and Administrative Business:**

- **CADB Staff update**
  - **Jannsen/Peacefield** (Alexandria) Adam is still working on. All 4 farms have survey comments returned from the SADC. Adam stated he's been working with SADC, 2 have been approved, 2 are pending approval. He's waiting for hard copies from the surveyor. Should have them in the next week or two.

- **Maresca/Martin** (Delaware/East Amwell) – Began survey this week, some discussion by Delaware Township of the ROW along Haines Rd. East Amwell waived the additional ROW.
- **Hope Hill** (Franklin) – Is going thru title work.
- **America's Grow a Row** (Franklin) – A math error was made on the final approval, Franklin Township passed a new one with the correct numbers and the Freeholders passed it on March 5<sup>th</sup>. Bob discussed with Chair Bond if the matter needed to come before the CADB again, nothing changed except some of the dollar figures, so they decided not to hold it up for another month.
- **DuBrow** (Franklin) – They have accepted the offer and the appraisal process has begun.
- **Grochowicz** (Hampton, Glen Gardner, Bethlehem) – Final approval, Hampton was on February 11<sup>th</sup>, Bethlehem was February 21<sup>st</sup>, Glen Gardner was March 6<sup>th</sup>. CADB final approval tonight.
- **Dalrymple** (Kingwood) – Closing end of the month. Doing final money transfers from ALE and the County and SADC.
- **2019 Planting Round** – Signed interest from Franklin, East Amwell, and possible interest from another Franklin, as well as West Amwell and Delaware. Have gotten a lot of phone calls of interest.
- **Site visit** – The **Sowsian** farm (now McConaughy) in East Amwell was preserved in 1998, current owner wants to divide the property. 152 ½ acres. Has a tenant farmer who raises goats and chickens, owners grow hay on remaining portion. Owner made an application to the board to separate it into two preserved farms, Bob will be doing a site visit on the 21<sup>st</sup> and will get back to the board at next month's meeting where it will be an agenda item. One farm will be 41 acres, the other will be about 105 acres.

#### Correspondence:

- Wrote a thank you letter to Anthony Kearns for coming to the meeting last month.
- Passed out press release for the 2019 Planting round.

#### SADC Comments:

- **SADC** – Stephanie Miller from SADC doesn't have a lot to share. Bob stated working on PIG rules, haven't been adopted yet. Want to reinforce the importance of Ag Advisory Committees on a Municipal level. If you have an active PIG program they want evidence of an active Ag Committee. Required to submit meeting minutes to prove they have met at least twice a year. There are municipal PIG programs that aren't very active, SADC wants to find out why they are not active. Stephanie stated, they want to give the municipalities the money they need where they need it. Hoping to have approval soon, on SADC agenda this month.

#### Chair Comments:

- None at this time

**Old Business:**

- **Grochowicz Farm** (Hampton, Glen Gardner, Bethlehem) - Final approval. Adam referring to a slide stated only thing that changed from preliminary approval was exception area did not include a driveway, now it does. All townships have granted final approval, Highlands grant covered 50% of the cost share. This is a first for New Jersey Farmland Preservation, the farm is in two Boroughs and a township. Asking for final approval. Mark Phillips made MOTION for final approval, Liz Schmid SECONDED. Chairman Bond called for a Roll Call.

*ROLL CALL                      MOVED    SECONDED                      AYES                      NAYS                      ABSTAIN    ABSENT*

David Bond, Chair			X			
Robert Hoffman, Jr., Vice Chair					X	
Susan Blew			X			
Marc Phillips	X		X			
John Pehinys			X			
Gerry Lyness			X			
John Van Nuys			X			
Dave Kyle			X			
Liz Schmid		X	X			
Ted Harwick			X			
Roger "Forest" Locandro			X			

**10 IN FAVOR, 1 ABSTENSION, MOTION CARRIED**

- **Farmland Preservation Plan Update** – Liz Schmid has volunteered to help, anyone else interested can email Bob. Bob stated it’s an important document on how the CADB wants to look at the next 10 years. A significant amount of farmland has been preserved since last update, the Highlands rules have changed significantly. Wastewater requirements have changed, there are new C1 stream classifications. Plan is a guidance document of what and how the CADB does what it does. Welcomes input. There are some municipalities that are starting to see a sunset clause in preservation. CADB needs to think about if board wants to keep working with townships that said they have preserved enough and don’t want to fund anymore preservations. Bob asked Stephanie if there is a window of a year to update the plan. She will check and get back to Bob. Dave Kyle asked how big the document was, Bob stated not that long, there is an electronic version on the County website.

**New Business:**

- **Senate Bill #3393**, Special Occasion events on a Preserved Farm. Requires prior written notice to CADB for each event. Cannot exceed 10 events a year and gross income from events must be less than 50% of farm income. Must comply with local ordinance, no need for variance.

**Right to Farm Matters:**

- None at this time

**Board Comments:**

- None at this time

**Public Comments:**

- None at this time

**Adjournment:**

- MOTION for adjournment made by John Van Nuys, Liz Schmid SECONDED. All in favor by voice vote.

**ALL IN FAVOR, MOTION CARRIED.** Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:25.