

MINUTES OF THE MERCER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD
MEETING HELD MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 2024
IN THE EXTENSION SERVICE BUILDING
1440 PARKSIDE AVENUE, EWING, N.J.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair D'Amico called this meeting to order at 19:30.

II. COMPLIANCE STATEMENT WITH THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

Vice-Chair D'Amico announced that pursuant to the Sunshine Law, notice of this meeting was mailed to the Trenton Times on February 15, 2024 and posted on the County Planning Department's website.

III. ROLL CALL

a. Voting Members:

Mr. Steve Jany, Chair – not present
Mr. Frank D'Amico, Vice-Chair – present
Mr. Scott Ellis – present
Mr. Gary Mount – present
Ms. Theodora Wang – present
Ms. Emily Blackman – not present

B. Non-voting Members:

Ms. Meredith Melendez/Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension – present
Mr. William Agress, County Planning Board Liaison – not present

C. Others Present:

Mr. Sean Pizzio, SADC
Mr. Anthony Drollas, MCADB Attorney
Ms. Maria Connolly, Mercer County Planning Director
Ms. Cindy Taylor, Mercer County Land Preservation Coordinator
Ms. Diane Kottas, Mercer County CADB Administrator
Mr. Ed Silver, Court Reporter
Mr. Michael Ehrenreich, applicant

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Mount and seconded by Ms. Wang, the minutes of the June 3, 2024 meeting were approved unanimously with the following amendment: a second visit to the farm of Jim Britton was discussed during the Farmland Preservation Updates section.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

VI. PUBLIC HEARING

a. Bellemont Farm brewery SSAMP application: see attached transcript. On a motion by Mr. Mount and seconded by Mr. Ellis, the Board moved to an Executive Session to discuss the constraints of their role in approval or denial of the application. On a motion

by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Mount, the Executive Session was closed and the Public Hearing resumed. On a motion by Mr. Mount and seconded by Mr. Ellis, the Board unanimously approved the application with a resolution to be passed at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE: Letter from Susan Bacso, Esquire, thanking the Board.

VIII. COMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

a. SADC

See attached.

b. Land Development

There are no Land Development applications on the upcoming County Planning Board agenda within the Agricultural Development Area (ADA).

c. Farmland Preservation Updates

Monitoring: Farm monitoring for 2024 is complete and all reports submitted to the SADC. Ms. Kottas reported that there has been no response from Mr. Britton regarding the June 11 letter of violation. A third site visit will be scheduled, with Mr. Mount, Mr. Ellis and Ms. Wang attending and a follow up letter will be sent by Mr. Drollas.

DiDonato Preservation: Ms. Kottas reported that Dr. DiDonato is interested in preserving an additional parcel in Lawrence Township (Block 7301, Lot 47). Staff will send him the application.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

a. SSAMP Policy revisions

Tabled until the September meeting.

X. NEW BUSINESS

None

XI. DISCUSSION:

None

XII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION: None required

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

a. Vice-Chair D'Amico adjourned the meeting at 21:41. The next scheduled meeting of the MCADB is September 10, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Kottas

Diane Kottas
Secretary to the Board