

THE MONMOUTH COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

MONMOUTH COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD



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

Wednesday, June 6, 2012, 7:30 PM

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

Acting Chairman Buscaglia called the meeting to order at 7:37 PM.

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Bullock, Buscaglia, Butch, Clayton, DeFelice, Geran, Giambrone
Staff: Beekman, Brockwell, Honigfeld
Representatives:
Public: Hope Gruzlovic, Monica LaRue, Rick LaRue, Joseph Van Den Bogert

MINUTES:

Mr. Geran offered a motion to approve the amended Regular Session minutes of the May 2012 meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Giambrone and approved by voice vote.

CORRESPONDENCE AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

Ms. Honigfeld presented a Farm Bill petition to keep funding for various Federal agricultural programs. Mr. DeFelice discussed some concerns from the perspective of the Monmouth County Board of Agriculture related to the implications of select Federal programs on NJ farmers.

REGULAR REPORTS:

- A. Chairman: No report.
- B. State: Ms. Gruzlovic reported on the recent SADC meeting in which a winery in Ocean County was found to be in violation of the Deed of Easement. She also shared news of two recent hires of SADC staff, committee discussion on the development of a wind energy AMP, and a cell tower that has been approved on a preserved farm.
- C. Staff: Ms. Honigfeld updated the board on the recent retirement of the long time Director of Planning, Robert Clark, and provided an update regarding the upcoming closing of the former Princeton Nurseries property.
- D. Rutgers Cooperative Extension: No reports.
- E. Municipal Representatives: No reports.

NEW BUSINESS:

Final Approval Resolutions & Discussion for Block 32, Lot 6; Block 34, Lots 25, 26 & 27 in Upper Freehold Township:

Mrs. Brockwell provided a summary of the property that is divided into four easements, but functions as one nursery. Three of the resolutions support moving forward with the acquisitions through the County



Planning Incentive Grant Program and one draft letter would support acquisition through the State Direct Acquisition Program and would recommend passage of a resolution by the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Mr. Bullock made a motion to approve the three resolutions for Block 32, Lot 6 & Block 34, Lot 27. Mr. Geran seconded the motion that was approved by roll call vote.

Mr. DeFelice made a motion to send the letter of support to the Freeholders for Block 34, Lots 25 & 26. Mr. Clayton seconded the motion that was approved by roll call vote.

RIGHT TO FARM ISSUES:

Memorialization of LaRue Request for a Site Specific Agriculture Management Practice

Determination:

Ms. Butch made a motion to memorialize the resolution from the May meeting with a slight correction to add the adoption and memorialization date to the secretary signatory line. Mr. Giambrone seconded the motion that was approved by roll call vote.

Request for a Site Specific Agriculture Management Practice Determination (LaRue Property, Upper Freehold) – Newly filed Application for Income Eligibility Review:

Mrs. Brockwell gave an overview of the updated application that now reflects income from the sale of four cows and imputed grazing income. Mr. Beekman reminded the board that the discussion for the evening was limited to income verification. The board was presented with photos of the property from the March 14th site visit that showed the pastures at that time.

Monica LaRue was sworn in and presented pictures and additional information related to the income on the property. She also entered into evidence, Exhibit A-1, which was a photo of the newly obtained farm license plates for their vehicles.

Ms. Butch requested that a site visit be conducted to verify the current state of the pastures since some time had passed since the March site visit. Other board members agreed that this would be a good idea since the photos were insufficient to effectively evaluate if the imputed grazing income from the pastures could be accepted as farm income. The board agreed that another site visit was necessary and that the Agriculture Agent, Bill Sciarappa, must be present at the visit.

Mr. DeFelice made a motion to carry the LaRue matter to a future meeting. Ms. Butch seconded the motion that was approved by voice vote.

Mrs. Brockwell took a poll of board members that requested to participate in the visit and confirmed that she would be following up with board, counsel & the LaRues to coordinate a mutually convenient date.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Beekman swore Mr. LaRue in before he proceeded to request clarification regarding the definition of a “pasture”.

Mrs. Brockwell requested that a brief closed session be held. Open session ended at 8:34 PM.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Meeting opened at 8:35 PM and adjourned at 8:55 PM.

ADJOURNMENT:

After going back into open session at 8:55 PM the open meeting was adjourned at 9 PM.