

**Gloucester County
Agriculture Development Board**

Chairman: West (Jay) Kandle, III

Secretary: Eric M. Campo

Minutes of the February 20,2020 Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Curtis; Chuck Romick; Jay Kandle; John Furfari (non-voting member); Mike Visalli; Wally Eachus Michelle Casella (non-voting member)

STAFF PRESENT: Eric M. Campo, Secretary, GCADB/Director, Gloucester County Office of Land Preservation; Eric Agren, Program Coordinator, Office of Land Preservation, Mary Cummings, Office of Land Preservation,

OTHERS PRESENT:

Secretary Campo called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. After noting compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act Secretary Campo conducting roll call.

Chairman Kandle asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2019 meeting. Mr. Curtis made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Visalli, and passed unanimously.

After the approval of the minutes and before opening the public meeting board member Mr. Eachus excused himself from the meeting.

Chairman Kandle requested a motion to open the Public Hearing portion of the meeting for the request of Ward E. Eachus Block 56, Lot 5 Township of Harrison, on the creation of a 16-year farmland preservation program. A motion was made by Mr. Curtis and seconded by Mr. Visalli and passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING ITEM

**REQUEST OF WARD E. EACHUS,
BLOCK 56, LOT 5, TOWNSHIP OF HARRISON,
ON THE CREATION OF AN 16-YEAR FARMLAND PRESERVATION
PROGRAM**

The Gloucester County Agriculture Development Board (GCADB) has received a petition from Ward E. Eachus to approve the creation of a 16-year Farmland Preservation Program. The property to be placed in the program is located in the Township of Harrison, Block 56, Lot 5. The property is 99 acres and its main agricultural activities are field crops (corn for grain). This property was originally placed in the permanent farmland preservation program on March 27, 2019 recorded

in deed book 6064, page 257. However, since the SADC did not participate in the settlement, the property was not deemed eligible to receive water and soil conservation cost share funding. In order to remedy this, matter the SADC has advised the GCADB to create a 16-Year Agreement on the property, making the property eligible for cost share funding.

A Record Owner Search on the property was conducted by Foundation Title, LLC on January 17, 2020. All findings are consistent with the information provided in current 16-Year petition. Copies of the petition and a copy of the municipal tax map showing the property are attached to this narrative.

After a brief discussion Chairperson Kandle asked for a motion to close the public hearing. A motion was made by Mr. Curtis and seconded by Mr. Visalli the motion passed unanimously.

Chairperson Kandle asked for a motion to approve the 16 yr. Farmland Preservation Plan. A motion was made by Mr. Curtis and seconded by Mr. Visalli. The roll call vote is listed below:

Marino-absent
Curtis-yes
Kandle-yes
Eachus-no vote, absent for the voting
Romick-yes
Visalli-yes
Dean-absent

The application was approved.

Correspondence

SADC Partner Update
SADC Update on Special Events on Preserved Farm.
SADC Soil Disturbance- SADC will give a presentation to GCADB on March 19th.
Farm Succession Planning Work-SADC
Letter from Secretary of Agriculture-Uniform Construction Code (UCC).
Letter from Department of Community Affairs (DCA) on UCC.
Chairperson Kandle stated he had received a letter from SADC with the inspection percentage rate for Gloucester County.

Director's Report 2-20-2020

- The Office of Land Preservation continues to work on a number of Farmland Preservation applications throughout the County, including properties in East Greenwich, Franklin, Harrison, Logan, Woolwich and Elk Townships. Eric Campo has been overseeing administrative duties for our department in addition to all legal work for the department.
- A public hearing is on the meeting agenda to consider a petition for the creation of a 16 Year Farmland Preservation Program on a farm in Harrison Twp.

- An update on Summit City Farms versus the Borough of Glassboro will be provided by County Counsel Eric Campo.
- Eric Agren attended the SADC meeting in Trenton on Jan 23 regarding the Special Events on Farms draft legislation. The director, Susan Payne, led a discussion among the board members of the SADC. The board members had several recommendations which she will review and bring an updated proposal to the SADC at their next meeting. This topic has become crucial to the survival of preserved farms. County Counsel E. Campo will provide an update to the GCADB on the proceedings.
- On March 19th, the SADC will give a presentation at the GCADB meeting on Soil Protection Standards on preserved farms.
- On January 30th, settlement was made on the Datz Farm, a 56-acre property in Mantua Twp. and Harrison Twp.
- Since January 2019 the Office of Land Preservation closed on 8 properties. The County's preserved land total stands at 18,533 acres of preserved farmland and 3,395 acres of preserved open space, for a total of 21,928 preserved acres.
- From January 2019 to present a total of \$ 1,121,501.92 in reimbursements from the SADC has been received.
- Our office has submitted the recent settlements closing packages to the SADC for previously preserved farmland for our cost share reimbursement.
- On January 22nd the Freeholders approved a development right easement for a farm property owned by ABNC Enterprises in cooperation with the State Agriculture Development Committee (SADC) and Franklin Township through the Township's Municipal Farmland Preservation Program. Settlement on this property is expected to occur in the very near future.
- The Office of Land Preservation is working on an Open Space property of 82 acres that will create a buffer zone around the Veterans Cemetery.
- The RFP for our required 2020 Engineering/ Surveying services for our office was submitted to the Purchasing Department. The RFP is up on the County website and responses were due by February 13th.
- The Land Conservancy was awarded a small contract on January 10th for the required annual update that will be due on December. 15, 2020, to the SADC, for the Agricultural Development Area (ADA).

Old Business

Summit City Farms vs. Glassboro is ongoing.

New Business

A request was made to change the time of the March meeting to accommodate the SADC presentation on Soil Disturbance. The March meeting will start at 6:30pm.

Chairperson Kandle asked for a motion to open the meeting to the public. The motion was made by Mr. Eachus, seconded by Mr. Curtis, and was approved unanimously. Seeing no individuals wishing to speak Chairperson Kandle asked for a motion to close the public portion. The motion was made by Mr. Eachus, seconded by Mr. Curtis, and was approved unanimously.

Chairperson Kandle next asked for a motion to adjourn at 8:00 pm. The motion was made by Mr. Curtis, seconded by Mr. Eachus, and was approved unanimously by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Cummings
Gloucester County Agriculture Development Board