

**Gloucester County
Agriculture Development Board**

Chairman: West (Jay) Kandle, III

Secretary: Eric M. Campo

Minutes of the May 21,2020 Meeting-Teleconference

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Curtis; Chuck Romick; Jay Kandle; Wally Eachus; Russell Marino; 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: William Madara; Cindy Roberts

Secretary Campo called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. After noting compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act Secretary Campo conducting roll call.

Secretary Campo asked for nominations for Chairperson. Mr. Eachus made a motion to nominate the current Chairperson (Mr.Kandle) and Vice Chairperson(Mr. Marion) Mr. Curtis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Secretary Campo administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Kandle and Mr. Marino. Secretary Campo turned the meeting over to Chairperson Kandle.

Chairman Kandle asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2020 meeting. Mr. Romick made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Mr. Curtis, and passed unanimously.

Chairman Kandle requested a motion to open the Public Hearing portion of the meeting for the request of William H.Jr. and Cynthia Madara for the creation of a 16-year Farmland Preservation Program on Block 260, Lot 13 in the Township of Mantua, County of Gloucester. A motion was made by Mr. Curtis and seconded by Mr. Eachus and passed unanimously.

Solicitor Campo swore in the farm owner Mr. Madara.

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. Romick the motion passed unanimously.

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

Marino-yes

Curtis-yes

Kandle-yes

Eachus-yes
Romick-yes
Visalli-absent
Dean-absent

The application was approved.

Director's Report 5-21-2020

- 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, Elk Townships, West Deptford Twp. and Monroe Twp.
- 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 Mantua Twp.
- The SADC has submitted to the legislators their recommendations for "Special Events on Preserved Farmland." The legislators should be voting on a bill in late May or June 2020.
- Since our last CADB meeting of 2-20-2020 we made settlement on 3 farms, an 86 acre property in conjunction with the Franklin Twp. PIG program; a 20 acre farm in Elk Twp.; and a 20 acre farm in East Greenwich Twp. These settlements were held at our Title Company office due to the Covid -19 and the title company made sure the area was clean and also maintaining a safe distance for everyone and the required face mask. This was an excellent plan, and everyone was protected.
- Since January 2020 we settled on 5 farms, and the County's preserved land total now stands at 18,752 acres of preserved farmland and 3,395 acres of preserved open space, for a total of 22,147 preserved acres.
- The SADC wired their cost-share for the 86 acre farm under the Franklin Twp. Pig program mentioned above (ABNC LLC) on April 23rd in the amount of \$337,436.18. We are currently working with SADC for the 3 other farms we settled on for our cost- shared grant.
- We are working with SADC on re- scheduling the presentation on Soil Protection Standards on preserved farms.
- Atlantic Electric submitted plans to our office to relocate poles on the edge of the road but the poles may touch a small portion area on a few preserved farms. County Counsel Eric Campo and Eric Agren consulted with SADC legal team by a conference call last month on the matter. It was determined by all parties ACE needs to submit more detail plans to our office and to SADC to make a determination if the County Ag Development Board (GCADB) needs to hear this matter under Section 19, N.J.A.C. 4:1C-19 (Land Acquisition or construction in agriculture development). ACE maybe exempt under the statue but we will need to see the revised plans.

LEGAL ISSUES

- In addition to the other items as previously indicated, County Counsel Eric Campo oversaw all legal matters concerning Land Preservation activities, in addition to managing all legal matters pertaining to the CADB.
- Hill Creek Farms requesting a hearing concerning the house being outside of the exception area this is still ongoing. The farm owner needs to take the case to the

Gloucester County Superior Court. The attorney for the landowner is working on getting the case submitted to the GC Superior Court.

- The Borough of Glassboro appeal vs. Summit City Farms and GCADB Right to Farm matter is ongoing.

Old Business

New Business

Issues with ACE and easements on preserved farms is still ongoing.

Cindy Rovins from SADC reported that SADC was working remotely and having team meetings. They have been using a mail in closing procedure due to the pandemic. The Woolwich TDR zoning has changed. Ten farms are waiting to start the preservation process. They have a \$800,000 SADC grant and are eligible for 5 million. There is plenty of SADC funding for preservation.

Ag Agent Casella reported Rutgers telecommute has been extended to July 1st. All non-essential research has been postponed. Webinars for farmers are being held.

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 5:30 pm. The motion was made by Mr. Curtis, seconded by Mr. Marino, and was approved unanimously by the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Cummings
Gloucester County Agriculture Development Board