

**Ocean County Agricultural Development Board
Minutes of January 10, 2017 Meeting
Rutgers Extension Center
Toms River, NJ**

Attendance: Doug Hallock; Chairman, Jeff Adams; Vice Chairman, Jon Dancer, Martin Lynch, Alan Perry, Mark Vodak, Anthony Agliata (OCPD), Jenny Mance (OCPD), Stephanie Specht (OCPD), Thomas Thorsen (OCPD), Mark Villinger (OCPD, via teleconference), Mathew Thompson (County Counsel), Dr. Steven Yergeau (OC Ag Ext), Christine Raabe (OCSCD)

I&II. Call to Order/Compliance with Open Public Meetings Act: Chairman Hallock called the meeting to order at 7:03pm by declaring a quorum and stating the Open Public Meetings Act requirements had been met.

III. Approval of Minutes from December 13, 2017: A MOTION to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2017 meeting was made by Mr. Adams and seconded by Mr. Vodak; Mr. Dancer abstained, all in favor, motion passed.

Mr. Lynch entered at 7:03pm.

IV. Program Update:

Contreras Farm, Plumsted Township, 9.4 acres: Ms. Mance updated the Board that the CADB previously gave final approval to the Contreras Farm at the certified value of \$16,500 per acre. The Board of Chosen Freeholders is set to act at their next Board meeting scheduled on January 17th.

Huie Farm North I and II, Plumsted Township: Ms. Mance further updated the Board that the Huie Farm appraisals are underway. The Greenlight approval has been given to both applications. Mr. Hallock questioned if Mr. Huie was notified and Ms. Mance replied that he was.

V. Site Specific Agriculture Management Practice Request:

Argos Farm, Lacey Township: Ms. Mance stated that Board may remember that in 2009 they adopted an SSAMP for the Argos Farm in Lacey Township. This SSAMP covered an equestrian facility and all of its related activities, the seasonal sale of field crops, u-pick, and produce, hayrides and corn maze, sale of livestock and poultry, and the sale of Christmas trees, wreaths, grave blankets, and roping.

Staff are reviewing a request with the farmer for a new SSAMP. The farmer is holding farm to table events using products of the farm, including livestock. While staff feel that this is covered under the On Farm direct Marketing AMP, the farmer feels he would like an SSAMP review. This will be a forthcoming matter once we finalize initial review and get the SSAMP request application from the farmer. The Board directed staff to encourage the farmer to review the existing AMP as it appears to cover his operation.

VI. NJDA Draft Beekeeping Rules

Ms. Mance stated that NJDA published Proposed Beekeeping Rules in the November 20th NJ Register. At its December 19th monthly meeting the NJ Farm Bureau voted to oppose the beekeeping management rules. The Farm Bureau opposition is targeted at 3 features of the rules:

- 1) Density restrictions: the number of beehives permitted on small parcels is too limited.
- 2) Waiver procedures: give neighbors virtual veto over routine requests for added beehives.
- 3) Education requirements: education is important but concern over bureaucratic red tape.

In 2015, Right to Farm protection was extended to beekeeping and NJDA was charged with developing standards. Public comment is open until January 19th. Mr. Adams mentioned that he would bring the matter to the next County Ag Board Meeting. Mr. Lynch stated that from the property tax assessment standpoint, assessors have struggled with how many beehives constitutes an active agricultural product. Ms. Raabe explained that Cumberland County opposed it because the rules limits all non-commercial beekeepers from being able to keep bees.

Mr. Thompson stated that a farmer is entitled to Right to Farm protections based on the sales income and farm acreage. Mr. Agliata mentioned that the rules allow for health and safety measures for residents. He also mentioned that the rules limit the residential beekeepers but they do offer the ability to submit a waiver to the State. The Board suggested on deferring to the Farm Bureau's input for the beekeeping program.

VII. Special Occasion Events – Pilot Program Report: Board members were given copies of the draft report to the legislature. Mr. Thompson stated that this draft report will be sent to the legislature and SADC and requested Board members to review the report and submit comments by January 16th prior to the State Special Occasion Events Subcommittee meeting.

VIII. Public Comment: Mr. Roohr mentioned that the Deer Fence Program completed its first round and some farmers have already went through the full process of applying, training, installing, and receiving the funds. Some farmers have had questions on how to install the fencing to the specified requirements. Mr. Roohr stated that the Laurita Winery complaint has been filed and both parties are in the discovery phase. Lastly Mr. Roohr announced that the State-wide annual monitoring reports have been completed and Ocean County is at or very close to 100% completion rate.

IX. Next Meeting Time and Place: February 14, 2018 at 7pm, Rutgers Cooperative Extension Center, Toms River, NJ.

Mr. Hallock and Mr. Dancer recused at 7:36pm.

X. Special Occasion Events, Laurita Winery Submittals:

Ms. Mance stated that with the pilot program ending as of March 31st of this year, the Board can only review and approve events that are held prior. Any events held after this date would be considered violations of the deed unless the legislature extends or provides for a new program to allow for these events. There are a number of events that the winery has submitted which underwent administrative review and approval. Ms. Mance updated the Board with the following events that have occurred:

Live Music Concert – This event took place on November 17, 2017 and consisted of a live band playing music with dancing in the main winery.

Ron Dancer Event – This event took place on October 10, 2017 and consisted of a private fundraiser event for Assemblyman Dancer in the main winery with food provided by current food service, Branches Catering.

Pumpkin Craft Class – This event took place on October 19, 2017 and consisted of a wine and pumpkin craft class in the main winery Laurita Room.

Movie Night – This event took place on October 27, 2017 and consisted of a movie screened on a large portable screen with amplified sound on vineyard lawn.

Umstead Family Repast – This event took place on November 16, 2017 and consisted of a catered luncheon for a family repast held on the loft area with food and wine service inside the main winery.

Business Lunch Nova Nordisk – This event took place on November 24, 2017 and consisted of a business luncheon for Nova Nordisk with wine tasting and wine service inside the main winery.

A **MOTION** to approve Special Occasion Events 2017-035 through 2017-040 was made by Mr. Adams and seconded by Mr. Lynch, all in favor, motion passed.

Additionally, several future events submitted require approval from the Board:

Dance Parties – This event will be held on January 20, February 3, 23, March 3, 23, April 7, 21 and consist of dance parties in the Main winery with themes of the 80's and Country Line Dancing. Mr. Because the Special Occasion Event Pilot Program concludes on March 31, the April dates will not be approved. A **MOTION** to approve the Dance Parties SOE, excluding the April dates was made by Mr. Lynch and seconded by Mr. Vodak, all in favor, motion passed.

Blessing of the Vineyard – This event will take place on January 20, 2018 and consist of a brief outdoor ceremony by the flagpole in the vineyard followed by an indoor celebration. A **MOTION** to approve the Blessing of the Vineyard special occasion event, excluding the April dates was made by Mr. Perry and seconded by Mr. Lynch, all in favor, motion passed.

Mr. Lynch questioned the maximum capacity of the main winery building. Mr. Thompson stated that Caterer stated that the maximum number is 225, Mr. Johnson stated that the Fire Marshal issued a maximum capacity of 325. Mr. Villinger confirmed the caterer's website states that the seating maximum is 225.

Winter Fest – This event will take place on the weekends of January 27-28, February 17-18 plus rain dates of January 13-14, 20-21, February 3-4, and 24-25, This event will consist of an indoor and outdoor event featuring ice sculptures, other winter activities, food trucks, recorded music, wine tastings, and wine service. Mr. Perry questioned if the ice sculptures were made or brought on site; Mr. Johnson replied that they are brought on site. Ms. Mance asked for clarification on the rain dates that were to be held prior to the scheduled events in addition to the overlapping event dates. Mr. Johnson replied that the rain dates are weather dependent and that the larger overlapping event would take priority. Mr. Thompson questioned if the Winter Fest will take place on the rain dates of January 13-14 and Mr. Johnson replied it will not. A **MOTION** to approve the Winter Fest special occasion event contingent to receiving the fireworks and food truck permits was made by Mr. Lynch and seconded by Mr. Vodak, all in favor, motion passed.

Girls Night Out – This event will take place every Thursday night from February 1 through March 29 and consist of a special ladies night with live music, card readers plus weekly craft, yoga, wine pairing classes. A **MOTION** to approve the Girls Night Out special occasion event was made by Mr. Vodak and seconded by Mr. Lynch, all in favor, motion passed.

March Irish Festivals – This event will take place on March 10-11 and 17-18 and consist of an indoor and outdoor event with Irish music, dancing, food, vendors, wine tasting, glass and bottle service, plus vineyard tours. A **MOTION** to approve the March Irish Festivals special occasion event was made by Mr. Lynch and seconded by Mr. Perry, all in favor, motion passed.

XI. Adjournment: A **MOTION** to adjourn was made by Mr. Lynch at 7:58pm and seconded by Mr. Vodak, all in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jenny M. J. Mance
Assistant Planner