

**Ocean County Agricultural Development Board
Minutes of March 1, 2018 Meeting
Rutgers Extension Center
Toms River, NJ**

Attendance: Jeff Adams; Vice Chairman, Martin Lynch, Alan Perry, Mark Vodak, Jenny Mance (OCPD), Stephanie Specht (OCPD), Mark Villinger (OCPD), Mathew Thompson (County Counsel), Dr. Steven Yergeau (OC Ag Ext), Christine Raabe (OCSCD), Charles Roohr (SADC)

Also Present: Stephen Johnson, Laurita Winery

I&II. Call to Order/Compliance with Open Public Meetings Act: Vice Chairman Adams called the meeting to order at 7:30pm by declaring a quorum and stating the Open Public Meetings Act requirements had been met.

III. Approval of Minutes from January 10, 2018: A **MOTION** to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2018 meeting was made by Mr. Lynch and seconded by Mr. Vodak; all in favor, motion passed.

IV. Special Occasion Events:

Correction to Resolutions and SOE approvals: Mr. Villinger stated that the Board reviewed and incorrectly approved Resolution #2018-07, Resolution #2018-010 and Resolution #2018-011 on January 10, 2018 authorizing the following Special Occasion Events to be held with expected dates past the conclusion of the pilot program.

- Application # 2018-001 "Dance Parties"
- Application # 2018-004 "Girls Night Out"
- Application # 2018-005 "March Irish Festivals"

A new resolution was prepared for the correction be made to the resolutions dated January 10, 2018 that the Ocean County Agriculture Development Board does not have the authority to approve any Special Occasion Events to be held past March 1, 2018. If Laurita Winery holds any events after March 1, 2018, they do so at the risk of violating the deed of easement. A **MOTION** to correct the prior Resolutions was made by Mr. Vodak and seconded by Mr. Perry; all in favor, motion passed.

Pilot Program Expiration and Next Steps: Mr. Villinger stated that March 1, 2018 is the expiration of the Pilot Program. There is currently one Bill in the Senate (introduced February 26th) and another in the Assembly (introduced February 1st) to extend the SOE Pilot Program for two years. If approved, the Bill shall be retroactive to March 1, 2018 and anything held after shall be considered acceptable for the Board to approve retroactively. This potential extension would also require annual reports consisting of findings. Mr. Thompson mentioned that there is a voting session for March 26th for both Assembly and Senate. Mr. Yergeau questioned if the Bill would extend the program in addition to allowing other farms to participate. Mr. Villinger replied that the program would only be extended for wineries. While the Winery continues to hold events past the Pilot Program, the Board is unable to review or approve these events. If the Legislature does not pass the extension, the Winery is at risk of violating the deed of easement.

Pilot Program Report with Recommendations: Mr. Villinger stated that the report has been updated with the Board's comments. Clarification of the maximum number of 225 people in the Winery building and hours of Board review has been added to the executive summary. Mr. Adams requested staff to add the revision date of the checklist supplied in the appendix. Ms. Raabe acknowledged the Planning Department's effort in working on the report. Mr. Adams stated that the Board recommendations leaves the SADC to decide on size and frequency of the SOEs and that the County's standpoint is to have the farm's parking be the regulator. The Board discussed various Special Occasion Event scenarios involving use of the Board's recommendations and how the CADB should proceed. A **MOTION** to finalize the Full Report on the Special Occasion Events Pilot Program was made by Mr. Vodak and seconded by Mr. Lynch; all in favor, motion passed.

V. Public Comment: Mr. Roohr stated that Rowan University created a GIS program called "Conservation Blueprint" with funding from NJCF and The Nature Conservancy. This program includes layers that are relevant to agriculture, specifically the Farmland Preservation GIS layer. This tool is open to the public and is useful, fast, and easy to use. (The website for use is www.njmap2.com/blueprint). Mr. Roohr also mentioned that the SADC is sending letters to municipal PIG partners asking for project statuses and inquiring about funding for the FY2019 budget.

The SADC would also like to find a better way to inform townships about what their responsibilities are in agriculture. Guidance documents will be made for townships for their understanding of their roles. There has been ongoing Right to Farm outreach sessions provided by counties with SADC speakers. Mr. Villinger informed the Board that the State distributed a notice for an available farm member on their Board. The State Board of Agriculture is accepting resumes and letters of interest until March 9th. Mr. Lynch suggested to Mr. Roohr that the League of Municipalities might be a useful setting for RTF outreach.

VI. Next Meeting Time and Place: April 11, 2018 at 8pm, New Egypt Town Hall, Plumsted, NJ.

VII. Adjournment: A **MOTION** to adjourn was made by Mr. Lynch at 8:12pm and seconded by Mr. Vodak, all in favor, motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jenny M. J. Mance
Assistant Planner