

# PASSAIC COUNTY AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT BOARD (CADB)

## Minutes of April 2, 2019

### Commissioners Present

|                       |                             |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Harry "Skip" Bartlett | Farmer Member - Chairman    |
| Dr. Timothy Feeney    | Citizen Member – Vice Chair |
| Megan Myers           | Citizen Member -            |
| Dave Longo            | Farmer Member               |

|               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| Jennifer Papa | Citizen Member |
|---------------|----------------|

### Also Present

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Kathleen M. Caren | Planning Department                                     |
| Glen Van Olden    | Soil Conservation District<br>of Hudson-Essex & Passaic |

### Commissioners Absent

|                                 |                             |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Rudy Ploch, Jr.                 | Farmer                      |
| Rocky Hazelman                  | Members                     |
| John D. Pogorelec,<br>Jr., Esq. | Assistant<br>County Counsel |

### Absent

|              |                                     |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| Cecilia Diaz | Rutgers<br>Cooperative<br>Extension |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|

Meeting called to order at 6:40 p.m. Skip read the Sunshine Notice and Kathleen noted a visual roll call.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** none – no members of the public were present.

**SWEARING IN OF REAPPOINTED AND NEW MEMBERS:** John D. Pogorelec, Jr. officiated the swearing-in of Skip, Rudy, Rocky, Jennifer, and Tim.

**REORGANIZATION:** Rocky motioned that Skip remain as chair, Dave seconded and as there were no other nominees, Skip was unanimously approved. Next, Tim was nominated to remain as Vice-Chair by Rocky, seconded by Dave, and with no other nominees, was unanimously approved.

**MINUTES:** Dave made a motion to approve the June 20, 2018 minutes, Rudy seconded and all but Jennifer (who was not a member at that time) voted to approve.

**2019 PROPOSED MEETING DATE:** June 4 (Megan and Glen are unavailable); September 3; November 12; January 7, 2020. Dave made a motion to approve, Rudy seconded and the dates were approved by all.

### • DISCUSSION

**Meeting with SADC (State Agriculture Development Committee) staff:** Kathleen explained that she'd attended a Municipal PIG grant workshop and was approached afterward by Amy Mandelbaum, the new Northern NJ Regional Coordinator. Amy stated staff would like to meet with Passaic County and Bergen County CADB Administrators to discuss the potential for a new Urban Agriculture program. Kathleen thanked Jennifer for her work on behalf of City Green's contribution to this initiative by sharing their database of community gardens/farms, and promised to keep the Board apprised of any new developments/proposals by the state.

**101 Oldham Road, Wayne** – Board members were disappointed by the correspondence sent to Ms. Klaasen re: the rejection of their proposal to purchase the development rights through Farmland Preservation.

**38 Castle Rock Road in West Milford** – Kathleen had shared an email with members of the Board earlier, re: a stop-work order (fill materials for the creation of future haul roads, staging areas, facilities, sales, parking, etc.) by the West Milford Zoning Officer. Upon consultation with both Glen and John, she shared with the property owners the forms necessary for a Site-Specific Agriculture Management

Practice (SSAMP). Glen also noted that the property owners are working with an engineer for the SCD re: the erosion control certification.

**Eden Farm I, West Milford** – There was discussion of this first-ever preserved farm (greenhouse operation) due to issues with the previous owners. The garden center store had been closed but has reopened; Kathleen promised to check with the local tax office that at least 50% of their greenhouse stock is being grown on-site (a condition of their farmland assessment).

**Other discussion:** Dave brought up Spring Brook Acres (Bloomingdale) as a potential farmland preservation project; said he'd spoken to Mrs. Moscato about it, and will provide more details as they emerge. Next, Rocky brought up Echo Lake Stables. Dave stated that he'd spoken to property owner and that "someone scared her" off from the idea of farmland preservation. Kathleen explained that some years ago, while Jennifer Gonzales was CADB Administrator, there had been a meeting with property owner, Jennifer, Kathleen and Stefanie Miller (SADC staff), and when she heard about the state monitoring and the restrictions under that guise, that they decided against pursuing preservation. Prior to the adjournment of the meeting, discussion of 101 Oldham Road continued, with Skip and other members stating they planned to attend the next Freeholder meeting to express their disappointment before taking additional action. Rocky asked if a special meeting was necessary to discuss but the Board seemed to discount this, as they'd like to try and resolve whatever issues there may be first.

**ADJOURNMENT:** With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:40 p.m., motion by Rudy, seconded by Rocky. Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, June 4, 2019 @ 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kathleen M. Caren*, CADB Administrator