



**PASSAIC COUNTY AGRICULTURE
DEVELOPMENT BOARD
MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, January 17th, 2023
WebEx Meeting**

Chair Bartlett opened the meeting at 6:30 PM and read the notice that the requirements of the Open Public Meeting Act had been met.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Skip Bartlett, Chair; Tim Feeney, Vice Chair; Rocky Hazelman, Commissioner; Michael Eelman, Commissioner; Henry Anderson, Commissioner; Jennifer Papa, Commissioner

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: Cecilia Diaz, Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Passaic County, Janet Rekesius, Soil Conversation District

STAFF PRESENT: John Pogorelec, County Counsel; Massiel Ferrara, Planning Director; Salvatore Presti, Assistant Planner

OTHERS PRESENT – Cindy Roberts, SADC Development and Training Coordinator; David Zaback, SADC Regional Acquisition Coordinator

MINUTES

A motion to accept the minutes of the November 14th, 2022 was made by Commissioner Papa. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hazelman. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC PORTION

Chair Bartlett opened the meeting to the public questions and comments, and asked if there were any members of the public who wished to be heard. No members of the public were present. Seeing no members of the public present, Chair Bartlett closed the meeting to public questions and comments.

REORGANIZATION

Commissioner Hazelman made a nomination and motion to have Chair Bartlett serve as Board Chair for 2023. Commissioner Papa seconded the nomination and motion. Chair Bartlett accepted the nomination to serve as Board Chair for 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

The following commissioner's terms have expired and must be renewed: Jennifer Papa, Rudy Ploch, Rocky Hazelman, and Skip Bartlett.

Commissioner Papa stated that she has moved out of Passaic County, and as such would no longer be serving on the board.

Planning Director Ferrara stated that she had received correspondence from Commissioner Ploch stating that he did not wish to be re-appointed for another term.

Commissioner Anderson stated that he has moved out of Passaic County, and as such would no longer be serving on the board.

Chair Bartlett stated that he intends to have his term renewed.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Bartlett presented the proposed meeting dates for 2023:

- January 17, 2023 (Tuesday)
- March 20
- May 15
- July 17
- September 18
- November 13 (Second Monday)

Commissioner Hazelman made a motion to accept the meeting dates as presented. Commissioner Rekesius seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

OPEN DISCUSSION

David Zaback from the SADC gave an update on SADC activity. He stated that a former Stewardship member has been promoted to SADC Deputy Director. As such, a position for Stewardship was now open. He also stated the SADC Executive Director would be reaching out to counties to have discussions on relevant activities and partnership between the SADC and county organizations. He also stated that preserved farms were eligible to grow cannabis and continue to maintain their preservation status; however, farms would not be eligible for preservation if they are growing cannabis at the time of their initial assessment.

Commissioner Roberts asked if Passaic County would be receiving a study from the Land Conservancy that Bergen County had received. Planning Director Massiel responded that the county was looking into doing inventory of the county which would bring Passaic County closer to a full Agriculture Plan. She also stated that the County Commissioners were considering folding the Agriculture Plan into the Open Space Trust Fund Plan.

ADJOURNMENT: Commissioner Hazelman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 PM that was seconded by Commissioner Feeney. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



JESSIE SUMMERS