

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH AGRICULTURE ADVISORY BOARD

Chairman – LaMarr Anderson (01)	Melanie Glatt (03)	VACANT (06)	Kenneth Hoffman (10)
Vice Chair – Stephen Brown (08)	Alexandria Hoffman (04)	Adam Janski (07)	Thomas Bergey (11)
Amanda Salmon (02)	Jozef Slowik (05)	Misty O'Connor (09)	VACANT (12)

MINUTES

**REGULAR MEETING
DSJ BUILDING
LOWER LEVEL CONFERENCE ROOM**

**October 16, 2024
4:30 P.M.**

I. CALL TO ORDER; ROLL CALL

Mr. Anderson called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

Members present and establishing a quorum were: LaMarr Anderson, Melanie Glatt (by phone), Alexandria Hoffman (arrived 4:39 p.m., left 5:52 p.m.), Jozef Slowik, Adam Janski (left 5:15 p.m.), Misti O'Connor, Kenneth Hoffman (arrived 4:39 p.m.), and Thomas Bergey (left 5:49 p.m.).

Members absent and excused: Stephen Brown, Amanda Salmon

Staff present: Suzanne Reilly/Asset Manager, Joseph Metzger/Land Management Division Manager, Margie Cobb/Department Administrative Specialist

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA; PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Agenda approved as presented.

III. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (Limit 3 minutes)

Benjamin Raevsky: Spoke regarding pros/cons of subdivision of agricultural, suggesting the Board set stringent requirements for smaller lots.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Bergey moved to approve the September 18, 2024 Minutes; seconded by Mr. Janski. minutes were approved as presented.

V. ITEMS OF BUSINESS

A. Staff Report – Suzanne Reilly

- Public notice has been mailed to the Board for property subdivision; this will be presented to the Board next meeting for action.

Questions asked by Board to Staff:

- Mr. Slowik: With the approval of State passing tax relief, does this Board need to bring this to Assembly to adopt? Mr. Metzger will ask Borough Attorney and get answer to Board at the next meeting.
- Mr. Janski: Question regarding Engstrom North Bypass project that will be running through an agriculture parcel. Mr. Metzger: Since this property is not

part of the Borough Agricultural program, there is technically not anything this Board can officially do.

- Ms. O'Connor: Reported on outreach for vacancies on the Board. Discussion on this effort followed.

B. Work Session

Investigate the feasibility of smaller parcels and more subdivisions and develop a recommendation to the Assembly while ensuring de minimis loss of agricultural land.

Mr. Anderson noted that he invited Fred Wagner, Borough Platting Officer, to join today's meeting to share Borough Code requirements.

At 4:58 p.m. motion was made to go into Committee As A Whole by Mr. Bergey, seconded by Mr. Hoffman. At 5:50 p.m. motion was made to come out of Committee As a Whole by Mr. Hoffman, seconded by Ms. O'Connor.

VI. MEMBER COMMENTS (Limit to 3 minutes)

- Ms. O'Connor: Took a lot of notes from discussion; appreciated comments made by others. Would like to see the Board stay open with all possibilities on definition of what a farm is.
- Mr. Hoffman: From a production standpoint 5 acres could work, but realistically 10 acres for government efficiency and less rules, keeps it simple.
- Ms. Glatt: Flexibility needed. We need to be smart how lands are broken down.
- Mr. Anderson: Definitely need to continue discussion for smaller acres. Contact Mr. Wagner if you have questions regarding subdividing. A reminder to Board members that attendance at these meetings is important as this discussion continues; the Board cannot go backward once decisions are made.

VII. NEXT MEETING: November 20, 2024 – Assembly Chambers/Back Half


VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Anderson adjourned the meeting at 6:02 p.m.


LaMarr Anderson, Chairman

11/20/24
DATE

ATTEST:


Margie Cobb
Department Administrative Specialist