

**RI State Conservation Committee
17 Smith Avenue, Greenville, RI 02828
401-949-1480**

Farm, Forest and Open Space Land Valuation Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 26, 2005

1:30 PM

USDA/NRCS Conference Room

Ken called the meeting to order at 1:35 pm.

In attendance were: James Savage, Charlene Randall, Linda Cwiek, Richard Hart, Ronald Fasano, Stephen Swallow, Michael Pezza, Suzanne Kogut, Al Bettencourt, Chris Modisette, Tom Abbott, Catherine Sparks, Ken Ayars and Wendy Hoyle.

Introductions were made and a summary of the program was presented.

The Subcommittee discussed the need for a person from a land trust be appointed to the subcommittee.

I. Review CT Land Valuation Values

Ron Olson of Connecticut spoke to the subcommittee via telephone. He explained their program and how they had conducted a survey 5 years ago. They base their values on the cap rate from Farm Bank and apply that average every 5 years. Ron discussed how the land was categorized.

MA was unable to be available for this meeting.

II. Review Farm Values

We reviewed how the subcommittee applies the cap rate. There is still concern that the rental numbers that we base our values on are

not accurate for what we want to do from NASS. We discussed developing a survey to go out to farmers to get a better number on rentals and possibly ask legislators for funding to do this survey.

There was a suggestion for the tax assessors to send out the survey

with their yearly letter to the landowners in the FFOS program.

-Ken will ask Connecticut for a sample of their survey.

All those who are interested in meeting with Ken on developing a survey to go out to

farmers can email Wendy. The survey committee meeting will be Monday, October 17th at 1:30 in USDA conference room.

Our next FFOS Land Valuation Subcommittee meeting will be Monday, November 14th at 1:30pm.

Items to be discussed are:

- Farmland Categories**
- Draft Survey**
- Steve will look at the cap rate.**
- Chris will plug numbers in for forestry rates.**
- Co-Chairs to replace Tom Dupree and Ken Swain**

Motion was made to adjourn at 3:10 pm. Steve/Jim Unanimous