

# **FARM, FOREST AND OPEN SPACE LAND VALUATION SUBCOMMITTEE**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, February 14, 2007**

**1:00 PM**

**USDA/NRCS Conference Room**

**60 Quaker Lane**

**Warwick, RI 02886**

**Ken Ayars called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.**

**In attendance were: Ken Ayars, Dick Went, Charlene Randall, Chris Modisette, James Neary, Linda Cwiek, Suzanne Kogut, Al Bettencourt, Ramona LeBlanc.**

### **I. Annual Review of FFOS Values**

**Ken began the meeting by recounting very briefly the history of the subcommittee and the legislation under which it was formed. Based on his interpretation of that legislation, with which the subcommittee concurred, it was decided that no changes to the recommended values**

need be made until February 2009. Excerpts from the legislation were distributed that state the state subcommittee “shall provide the subcommittee’s list of current use values for farm, forest, and open space land to each tax assessor, through the department of administration, on or before February 15 of each year in which the subcommittee is required to determine such figures.” Further, the subcommittee “shall update these values every three (3) years commencing February 1, 2009.”

## **II. Commission to Study Taxation of FFOS Land**

In 2007, The General Assembly resolved that a commission should be formed to study the effects of taxation on the preservation of FFOS land and to examine the consistency of administration of related laws. It was to report findings by April 1, 2008 and expire June 30, 2008. It was never formed. Senator Sosnowski has been contacted and will pursue this matter. The deadlines most probably will not be met, but the recommendations can still be made. Questions were raised about the types of lands that can be classified under FFOS. It was suggested that the commission could address these issues rather than the subcommittee. Can golf courses and other such commercial lands be taxed according to FFOS rates? Does a lot have to be vacant to fall under FFOS? How should a house lot on FFOS land be taxed? The Committee looks to the commission to unify interpretation and implementation statewide.

### **III. Date of Meeting to Review Values for 2009**

**Since an update to the recommended values is required in 2009, Ken expressed that the subcommittee needs to begin the process sooner rather than later.**

**The methodology is in place and the subcommittee must decide to use same methodology or to change it. The next meeting is scheduled for April 2, 2008 at 2:00 pm.**

### **IV. Other**

**A) The serving tax assessors must determine if their commission (3 years) has expired, if they want to remain on the subcommittee and inform the administrative assistant of their decision in writing.**

**B) Letters will be written to attempt to get appointments made to fill all the seats on the subcommittee.**

**C) Ken Ayars was nominated to continue as Chairman of the subcommittee: Suzanne/Linda, unanimous. Suzanne was nominated as Vice-Chair: Linda/Charlene, unanimous.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 1:45: Jim/Linda, unanimous.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Ramona LeBlanc**