

AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2005 MEETING

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Everett Stuart, Jason Pezzullo, Kevin Nelson, Dave Wallace, Judy Bailey, Ken Ayars (for Bob Sutton), George Mason

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Bob Sutton, Jim Opaluch

GUESTS: Michael Kent

Mike Kent submitted to the Commission a letter, and made a presentation regarding his proposal to build a house on the former Graham property, East Greenwich, which he has purchased in fee, and on which development rights have previously been purchased by the Commission. This would be in return for his conveying developments rights to the Commission on a one acre parcel on which exists the farmhouse, and which was kept out of the original development rights acquisition. The Commission discussed and then referred to Mary Kay for legal review.

Kevin Nelson made a motion, seconded by Everett Stuart to approved the minutes of the August 11, 2005 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Frederika Bettinger, South County Conservancy, discussed the status of the Fenner/Ricci, and Sinkler Farms, Charlestown. The development rights application for the Sinkler Farm (Belvidere Stables) was handed out at the previous meeting and discussed. The Town of Charlestown has committed \$400,000 toward the protection of the Fenner Farm, which is in purchase and sale agreement with the Conservancy for \$607,500, with the goal of closing by the end of December, 2005. The Ricci farm abuts Fenner, and the owners will donate development rights if they are acquired first to Fenner by the Conservancy and Commission. Fenner was previously scored a year ago by the Commission and fell just below the threshold score for acceptance into the program. The Commission agreed to rescore Fenner, and score Sinkler for the first time at the next meeting.

Ken Ayars discussed the South Side Community Land Trust (SSCLT) city farm property in Providence. SSCLT rents several contiguous city lots for an urban garden, and the owners of one of the lots has decided to sell for development. In order to preserve the integrity of the city farm, DEM has agreed to purchase a permanent easement to the one lot threatened to be sold, and the development rights will be conveyed to the Commission. Kevin Nelson made a motion, seconded by Everett Stuart to accept the development rights to the SSCLT lot for which DEM is purchasing a conservation easement. The motion passed unanimously.

Ken Ayars presented a request by the Tiverton Land Trust for the Commission to appraise the Hibbad property, Tiverton. Dave Wallace made a motion, seconded by Everett Stuart to authorize an appraisal for the Hibbad property. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission discussed the status of the proposed rules and regulations, and it was agreed to hold the public hearing in this regard on the date of the next regular Commission meeting in October, at the USDA conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth D. Ayars, Chief
Division of Agriculture, RIDEM