

## AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION COMMISSION

### MINUTES OF THE MAY 11, 2006 MEETING

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** George Mason, Everett Stuart, Kevin Nelson, Bob Sutton)

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dave Wallace, Jim Opaluch, Jason Pezzullo

**STAFF PRESENT:** Ken Ayars, DEM/Agriculture  
Lis Peterman, DEM/Agriculture  
Vicky Drew, USDA/NRCS

#### **GUESTS:**

The meeting began at 5:10 pm at the USDA, 60 Quaker Lane, Warwick.

Kevin Nelson made a motion, seconded by Bob Sutton, to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2006 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission discussed enacted Separation of Powers legislation which in particular designates as non-voting members the representatives of the League of Cities and Towns and University of Rhode Island, and lowers the quorum of the Commission to just four voting members. The Commission had previously sent correspondence to the General Assembly expressing reservation about such changes when originally proposed.

The Commission discussed a request by Charles Border to put up a small gazebo on his farm in Foster which was previously protected by the Commission. Bob Sutton made a motion, seconded by Kevin Nelson, that the gazebo represents a non-permanent structure that the Commission does not need to review. The motion passed unanimously. For the record the Commission considers the gazebo to have useful agricultural purposes, such as for agri-tourism etc.

The Commission discussed and reviewed the grant application prepared by DEM on behalf of the Commission to the USDA/NRCS for the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program. Bob Sutton made a motion, seconded by Kevin Nelson to approve the application and farms as previously and scored and accepted by the Commission. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission discussed scoring the Albert Farm, Exeter, and reviewed a revised soil report by NRCS based on a field evaluation of the property requested by the Commission to look at changes in soil characteristics following Albert removal of sand and gravel from the property several years ago. Bob Sutton made a motion, seconded by George Mason to not take action on the Albert Farm, and to contact an agronomist in regard to making specific recommendation as to whether the soil value for growing crops has been significantly reduced. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission discussed farms in negotiation.

At the request of USDA/NRCS, Bob Sutton made a motion, seconded by Kevin Nelson, to allow the Commission to appear on the Deed for the LeBreux Farm, Tiverton. The motion passed unanimously.

Bob Sutton made a motion, seconded by Kevin Nelson, to allow the Chair to sign any necessary documents to move FRPP funds from Treaty Rock Farm, Little Compton to the LeBreux Farm, Tiverton. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission discussed the draft rule amendments. Kevin Nelson made a motion, seconded by Bob Sutton, to schedule the public hearing for the rule amendments prior to the Commission Meeting in July. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission discussed, and deferred for action until the next meeting, requests for funding for the Hibbad Farm, Tiverton, and LePore Farm, Lincoln.

Bob Sutton made a motion, seconded by Kevin Nelson to adjourn at 6:45 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenneth D. Ayars, Chief  
Division of Agriculture, RIDEM

