

AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 11, 2007 MEETING

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Everett Stuart, Kevin Nelson, Dave Wallace, George Mason, Ken Ayars

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Jason Pezzullo, Jim Opaluch

GUESTS: Bruce Keiser, Town of Jamestown
Lisa Bryer, Town of Jamestown
Stephen Ostiguy, Church Community Housing
Brigid Ryan, Church Community Housing
Joe Bossum, Sandywoods Farmn

STAFF: Lis Peterman, DEM
Reena Shaw, USDA/NRCS

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

Kevin Nelson made a motion, seconded by Dave Wallace, to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2006 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Kevin Nelson made a motion, seconded by George Mason, to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2006 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

George Mason made a motion, seconded by Dave Wallace, to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2006 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Ken Ayars informed the Commission that he is henceforth the Director's designee to the Commission, and former responsibilities as staff will be shifted to Liz Peterman to the degree possible.

Bruce Keiser, Town Manager, and Lisa Bryer, Town Planner, Jamestown provided an update to the Commission on the status of negotiations for the Jamestown projects (Dutra, Ceppi and Neale farms). Federal funding to the Commission for Dutra in particular expires the end of September, 2007, and the Commission must decide in the

very near future whether to re-allocate federal and state funds to other projects if Dutra is not likely to close.

Stephen Ostiguy, Brigid Ryan and Joe Bossum provided an update on the project with Sandywoods Farm and Church Community Housing to both protect the farm and utilize in part for low income housing and an artist colony. Bossum and Church Community Housing submitted an application for development rights to the Commission with details on the project, which was also discussed by the Commission and slated to be scored at the next meeting.

The Commission discussed the status of farms in negotiations and the budget. Ken Ayars made a motion, seconded by Kevin Nelson, to move \$500,000 in federal FRPP funds that expire September 30, 2007, from Dutra to Treaty Rock contingent on the funds not being needed by Jamestown for the Dutra Farm. The motion passed unanimously.

Ken Ayars made a motion, seconded by Dave Wallace, to increase the commitment in state bond funds from \$500,000 to 800,000 for Schartner for 60 days contingent on the project being consistent with the original application, Commission budget, and property appraisal. Stuart, Mason, Wallace and Ayars voted in favor, Nelson voted against. The motion passed.

Everett Stuart and George Mason provided an update on discussions with Senator Lenihan about possible amendment to 2006 Separation of Powers Legislation regarding the Commission with the goal being to add to the number of members eligible to vote. The Commission also discussed membership in general and vacancies etc.

The Commission discussed the status of proposed rule amendments, which have not yet completed review by the legal office of DEM. Kevin Nelson made a motion, seconded by George Mason, to publish a legal notice in the Providence Journal regard the proposed rules by the end of February. Nelson, Mason, Wallace and Stuart voted in favor, Ayars abstained. The motion passed.

The Commission discussed whether members should obtain Officers and Director's insurance or are covered the by the State. Ken Ayars will seek legal opinion from the legal office of DEM.

The Commission discussed the 2007 meeting schedule, with meetings proposed the second Thursday of each month, 5pm at USDA, 60 Quaker Lane, Warwick. Kevin Nelson made a motion, seconded by Dave Wallace to approve the 2007 meeting schedule. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission reviewed and discussed applications. The Albert Farm, South Kingstown (Barber Pond parcel) was scored and achieved a primary score of 23.75, secondary score of 8.15 for a total of 31.9. The farm is therefore accepted into the program as it exceeds the necessary point total of 24.0.

New applications handed out for review to be scored at the following meeting were:
Andrews – Exeter, Bossum – Tiverton, Silveira – Warren, and Duncan – South
Kingstown.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth D. Ayars, Chief
Division of Agriculture, RIDEM