

AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE MAY 10, 2007 MEETING

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Jason Pezzullo, Jim Opaluch

GUESTS: Richard Schartner, Schartner Farm

STAFF: Lis Peterman, DEM
Mike Moorman, USDA/NRCS

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

George Mason made a motion, seconded by Dave Wallace, to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2007 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Newport Vineyards, Middletown was removed from the agenda as it was determined the property on which they seek permission to make farm related improvements (barn etc.) is not under development rights easement, but conservation easement to DEM, and thus must come before the Natural Heritage Commission.

Richard Schartner provided an update on the Bald Hill Nursery property and efforts to protect it in collaboration with the Commission, USDA, Towns of Exeter and North Kingstown and private parties.

Ken Ayars and George Mason provide an update on negotiations for the protection of Treaty Rock Farm, Little Compton and Sakonnet Vineyards, Little Compton. Ken Ayars provided an update on other farms in negotiation and the Commission budget.

The Bossum Farm, Tiverton was scored and achieved a primary score of 13.80 and secondary score of 6.1 for a total of 19.90. The Rambone Farm, Foster was scored and achieved a primary score of 12.60 and secondary score of 3.36 for a total of 15.95. Neither farm is accepted into the program as they did not achieve the minimum necessary score of 24.0 points.

Ken Ayars discussed and handed out additional applications for development rights which have some urgency and requested scoring at the next meeting. The Commission previously agreed to withhold scoring until after the public hearing and new rules are in place, therefore only applications of urgency will be scored in the interim.

Everett Stuart provided an update on Separation of Powers legislation and Commission membership. Everett's Senate confirmation hearing was recently held without objection. The Senate confirmation hearing has not yet been held for candidate William Wright.

Mike Moorman, USDA provided an update on the 2007 FRPP grant round. USDA received applications from two entities, and the applications have not yet been reviewed or scored.

The agenda being lighter than normal the Commission adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth D. Ayars, Chief
Division of Agriculture, RIDEM