

**AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE JULY 17, 2007 MEETING**

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Everett Stuart, Kevin Nelson, Dave Wallace, George Mason, Mike Sullivan and William Wright from West Greenwich was introduced as a new member.

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Jason Pezzullo, Jim Opaluch,

GUESTS: Jeffrey Seemann, Dean of the College of Environmental and Life Sciences, URI

STAFF: Mary Kay, DEM/Legal, Lis Peterman-DEM, and Mike Moorman-USDA/NRCS

The meeting was held at the Little Compton Town Hall and called to order at 3:38 pm. A motion was made by Mike Sullivan and seconded by Kevin Nelson to accept the meeting minutes of the May, 10, 2007 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Jamestown Farms update: Bruce Keiser, Jamestown Town Manager has 3 purchase and sales drafted and bid packages for surveys. The Nature Conservancy met with town and land trust, and the Town may go for a 7 million dollar bond vote in August. The Commission will need to amend Cooperative Agreements with USDA/NRCS for FRPP funds with pending deadlines so as to not lose federal funds, and the Commission contribution in state funds stands at 1.1 million for the three farms. A motion was made by Mike Sullivan for Everett Stuart to sign the purchase and sales agreements for all 3 farms, seconded by George Mason. Kevin Nelson had concerns that appraisals had not been completed and based on price/acre if it's high then a precedent may be set for other farms to demand as much for their farms. Mary Kay stated other farms with appraisals had been coming in high. Mike Sullivan amended the motion so that if there are unforeseeable events with the appraisals the Chair will call an emergency meeting. George Mason seconded the motion as amended and the motion passed unanimously.

Schartner Farm: The Schartner Farm project was discussed in length. It was communicated to the Commission that Richard Schartner wanted a signed purchase and sales agreement by August 11, 2007. The Commission discussed the proposal to give the Director guidance. He is scheduled to meet with the Exeter Town Council on August 6, 2007.

Jaswell Farm-The Jaswells thought the appraised value was too low, but would like to continue talking. They did authorize the Commission to move designated FRPP grant funds to other projects.

Tuckahoe Turf- The Water Resources Board is considering different well locations which may affect the appraisal value.

Smith-Purchase and sales agreement is in place.

Peckham-Commission will have a written proposal by the end of July.

Hibbad-Negotiations have ceased so there is \$200,000 for reallocation to other projects.

Dave Wallace made a motion, seconded by Kevin Nelson, for Everett Stuart to amend the cooperative agreement for FRPP funds due to expire. The motion passed unanimously.

Kevin Nelson made a motion, seconded by Dave Wallace, that the Commission enter into a purchase and sales agreement for the deed to development rights for 89 acres at Treaty Rock Farm for \$450,000 of Commission funds (original \$250,000 plus \$200,000 transferred from the Hibbad project). The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission discussed the budget and bond allocation for 2007 which is projected to be \$1,000,000, however there are efforts to increase.

The 20 day public comment period for the amendment to the rules is over, and there were no comments.

Kevin Nelson made a motion, seconded by George Mason to accept the amended rules and regulations. The motion passed unanimously.

Sakonnet Vineyards, Little Compton was scored and approved. The primary score was 23.50 and the secondary score 7.43 for a total of 30.93. A motion was made by Kevin Nelson and seconded by Dave Wallace to accept Sakonnet Vineyards into the program. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by George Mason and seconded by Kevin Nelson to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 5:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elisabeth Peterman,
Sr. Environmental Scientist
Division of Agriculture, RIDEM