



**AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 26, 2007 MEETING**

DRAFT

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Everett Stuart, Kevin Nelson, Dave Wallace, Ken Ayars, William Wright, Jason Pezzullo (non-voting member).

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: George Mason, Jim Opaluch

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

GUESTS: Richard Clark, Clark Farms - South Kingstown

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm. A motion was made by Dave Wallace and seconded by William Wright to accept the minutes from the July 21, 2007 meeting as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission minutes from the August, 2007 meeting were not available. The scoring meeting planned for September 6th was cancelled.

The Commission discussed the budget at length and requested additional information from the Director, DEM as to future funding.

Richard Clark of Clark Farms spoke about the need for irrigation at his farm in South Kingstown which had recently been subdivided and purchased from the Browning Farm on which development rights were previously sold. Clark desires to build a pond for irrigation purposes and submitted plans in that regard. The pond will not be located in a wetland or prime agricultural land and does not need permits from DEM. Kevin Nelson made a motion, seconded by Dave Wallace to approve the pond plans as submitted. The motion passed unanimously..

The status of farms in negotiation was discussed:

It appears the Ceppi Farm in Jamestown is withdrawing from negotiations for development rights. Negotiations continue for the Neale and Dutra Farms in Jamestown.

A September 14 offer letter was sent to Richard Schartner for 6.5 million for

approximately 140 acres in Exeter/North Kingstown. There has not been contact with Schartner since the letter.

The Tiverton Land Trust and Hibbad have failed to reach agreement. The Commission asked that Hibbad be contacted to determine if he wishes to remain in the program or withdraw.

A September 6 offer letter was sent to Pete Peckham for 4.0 million for approximately 140 acres in Tiverton. There has not been contact with Peckham since the letter.

Bernie Smith, Gloucester undergoing survey, and negotiations continue with Tuckahoe Turf, Richmond and Treaty Rock Farm, Little Compton.

The Commission reviewed and discussed the Draft Handbook For Commissioners and revised scoring sheet. Kevin Nelson made a motion, seconded by Dave Wallace, to accept the updated scoring sheets. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting schedule for the remainder of 2007 was discussed and agreed upon.

The Commission membership was discussed and the possibility of legislatively expanding voting membership to 9 members.

Kevin Nelson made a motion, seconded by Dave Wallace, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was accepted and the meeting adjourned at approximately 7pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenneth D. Ayars, Chief
Division of Agriculture, DEM