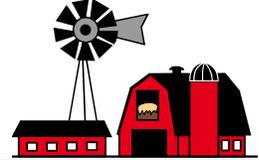




STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
Agricultural Lands Preservation Commission
c/o Department of Environmental Management
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908



AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 18, 2007 MEETING

DRAFT

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: William Wright, Jim Opaluch

STAFF: Lis Peterman-DEM,

GUESTS:

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm at USDA, 60 Quaker Lane, Warwick.

Ken Ayars resubmitted the meeting minutes for July 21 as some technical corrections had been made though the minutes previously approved. The Commission approved the corrections and the minutes to be posted with the Secretary of State.

Minutes from the August, 2007 meeting were not available. Dave Wallace made a motion, seconded by Kevin Nelson to approve the September 26, 2007 meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission budget and status of farms in negotiation was discussed:

Sakonnet Vineyards, Little Compton desires to close before the end of calendar 2007 to take advantage of a tax incentive program for qualifying farmers which will expire at the end of year unless extended by Congress. George Mason is negotiating with the owner Earl Samson on behalf of the Little Compton Agricultural Conservancy Trust and Commission and has reached agreement, and therefore requests an allocation from the Commission of \$500,000, the balance of funds to come from USDA and the Trust. The Commission also discussed the Tuckahoe Turf project, and Dave Wallace made a motion to re-approve increasing the Commission allocation to Tuckahoe Turf by \$300,000 (approved also at August, 2007 meeting), and to approved an allocation of \$500,000 to Sakonnet Vineyard. The motion passed unanimously. Tuckahoe Turf has accepted an offer of 4.25 million for approximately 505 acres in Richmond. A purchase and sale contract is being drafted.

Ken Ayars reported that the Hibbad and Ceppi projects have withdrawn from negotiations and the respective funds previously allocated to those projects may be reallocated. Ken Ayars made a motion, seconded by Geoge Mason, to reallocate the \$300,000 previously approved for Ceppi to Tuckahoe Turf. The motion passed unanimously.

Negotiations continue for the Neale and Dutra Farms in Jamestown and agreements closed to being reached.

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.

A September 6 offer letter was sent to Pete Peckham for 4.0 million for approximately 140 acres in Tiverton. Ken Ayars and Lisa Primiano are planning to meet soon with Pete Peckham to discuss.

Bernie Smith, Gloucester undergoing survey, and agreement close to being reached with Treaty Rock Farm, Little Compton.

The Town of North Kingstown is negotiating with the Freeborn and DelVecchio Farms and close to agreement. Ken Ayars distributed and discussed a letter from the Town requesting the Commission consider allocations toward these projects.

The Commission discussed the 2008 FRPP grant round for which USDA requests letters of intent be submitted soon. The Sinkler farm, Charlestown is one for which staff suggests the Commission submit for funding and the Commission agreed.

The Commission discussed at length the revised scoring sheets. Dave Wallace made a motion seconded by George Mason to set the minimum score for acceptance to be 35 out of 70 possible points. The motion passed unanimously.

Ken Ayars reported that the revised rules had been submitted to the Secretary of State on October 2nd, to be effective after 20 days.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenneth D. Ayars, Chief
Division of Agriculture, DEM