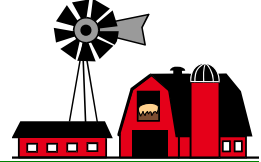


STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
Agricultural Lands Preservation Commission
c/o Department of Environmental Management
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908



AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 16, 2008 MEETING

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Will Wright

STAFF: Lis Peterman, DEM
Mike Moorman, USDA

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 pm at the USDA, 60 Quaker Lane, Warwick, RI.

Dave Wallace made a motion, seconded by Kevin Nelson to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2008 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

At 5:20 pm, Dave Wallace made a motion, seconded by George Mason for the Commission to move into Executive session pursuant to RIGL 42-46-5(a)(5) for the purpose of discussion or consideration related to the acquisition of real property for public purpose wherein advanced public information would be detrimental to the interest of the public. The motion passed unanimously. At 6:30 pm, Kevin Nelson made a motion, seconded by George Mason to move out of Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously.

Dave Wallace made a motion regarding Schartner farm (Bald Hill Nursery), North Kingstown/Exeter, seconded by Ken Ayars. The Commission increases the commitment in state bond funds from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 to be provided in the form of grants in the amount of \$500,000 to the Town of Exeter and \$500,000 to the Town of North Kingstown for the acquisition of development rights to Schartner farms/Bald Hill Nursery consistent with the provisions of the draft grant letters prepared by DEM. The motion passed unanimously. George Mason made a motion, seconded by Dave Wallace to authorize the Chair to sign the grant letters to North Kingstown and Exeter regarding Schartner conditioned also upon including; 1) the option of a right of first refusal by the Commission to acquire development rights to the two ten acre parcels under transfer of development rights option if no transfer of development rights program is developed by the Towns of Exeter and/or North Kingstown, and 2) use of the standard covenant and restrictions of the Commission. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission scored Diamond Hill Vineyard (Berntston), Cumberland which achieved an average score of 40.2 and is therefore accepted into the program.

Ken Ayars provided an update on plans to hold for a closing ceremony on October 22nd regarding Tuckahoe Turf. The ceremony will be at the farm in Richmond and the Governor, Representative Walsh, Senator Sosnowski and other dignitaries will attend. The event will serve as a platform for speaking regarding the upcoming public vote on November 4th concerning the Open Space Bond - Question two on the ballot.

Mike Moorman, USDA discussed the upcoming Federal Farm and Ranchland Protection grant round, and letters of intent by interested parties due November 21 to NRCS. DEM staff will prepare a list of applicants for review and discussion by the Commission at the next meeting. NRCS estimates that approximately 3.7 million in federal funds will be available to RI in federal fiscal 09 for farmland protection, which must be matched on at least a 1:1 basis and therefore passage of a new bond for open space/farmland protection is essential to providing state matching funds.

Everett Stuart discussed Commission membership and members will propose and discuss suggested candidates at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenneth D. Ayars, Chief
Division of Agriculture, DEM