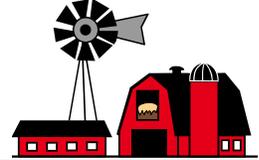




STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
Agricultural Lands Preservation Commission
c/o Department of Environmental Management
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908



AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES OF THE MAY 21, 2009 MEETING

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin Nelson, Everett Stuart, Will Wright, Dave Wallace, Ken Ayars

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: George Mason

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

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 Will Wright to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2009 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Ken Ayars updated the Commission on farms in negotiation, which at present consist of Peckham, Tiverton, all other negotiations having been completed and projects closed. DEM/The Nature Conservancy etc, continue efforts to raise funds for Peckham, including federal grants, and Peckham continues to work through the subdivision process with the Town of Tiverton. The Commission has committed \$500,000, and closing is anticipated sometime in 2009.

Mike Moorman updated the Commission on the USDA/Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP) 2009 grant application, with applications due by June 30th, 2009, and approximately 4.7 million in FRPP grant funds available for RI. NRCS/Washington has made the decision that sod and ball and burlap nursery operations are not eligible for FRPP funding due to soil loss rates. While not yet publicly announced, the proposed policy effects the Commission's 2009 FRPP application by making ineligible farms originally proposed to be included. DEM in particular objects to the NRCS policy in this regard and is of the opinion that protecting sod and nursery farms in perpetuity is of far greater value than losing the opportunity because of NRCS policy concerning soil loss rates and FRPP eligibility.

The Commission discussed farms to be included in the 2009 FRPP application and agreed to maintain the same list of farms included in the letter of intent submitted to NRCS on 11/18/08, with the exception of Perreault - Richmond – the other farms being Stamp - Richmond, Pezza - Johnston and Luchka/Coulter - Charlestown. Perreault is a

sod farm and is made ineligible by the aforementioned NRCS policy regarding sod farms and FRPP. Liz Peterman distributed to the Commission recent applications for state development rights acquisition and discussed each project. The Commission prioritized the Kee Farm, Warren as one to be scored at the next meeting and if accepted to be included in the Commission's 2009 FRPP application in place of Perreault.

The Commission discussed the Kent Farm, East Greenwich (formally Graham or Carroll) and the resubmission of a request by Mike Kent to build one house on the property on land under PDR easement. The request was previously made to the Commission and not approved, and the general consensus of the Commission is unchanged, however Mike Kent will be asked to provide additional information and the matter will be reviewed again formally when the requested information is before the Commission.

The status of membership was discussed, as there are three vacancies, and member Dave Wallace requires reappointment. Wallace has been submitted to the Governor's Office for reappointment (which also required Senate approval), and names submitted to fill the 3 vacant membership positions include Kevin Breene and Jim Pagliarini. Other names discussed at the meeting and suggested for submission to the Governor's Office were Heather Minto and Martha Neale – DEM staff will check on their respective interests in becoming members.

The Commission reviewed a request by the Town of North Kingstown for the Commission to pay up to 50% of the title insurance costs for the recent Schartner Bald Hill Nursery development rights acquisition. Kevin Nelson made a motion, seconded by Will Wright, to approve the request, the motion passed unanimously.

Kevin Nelson made a motion, seconded by Will Wright, to adjourn the meeting at 7pm. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenneth D. Ayars, Chief
Division of Agriculture, DEM