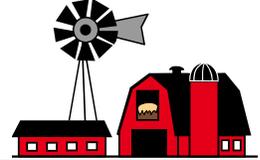




STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS  
**Agricultural Lands Preservation Commission**  
c/o Department of Environmental Management  
235 Promenade Street  
Providence, RI 02908



## AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION COMMISSION MINUTES OF THE JULY 30, 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 3:08 pm at Hidden Meadows Farm, 120c Breakhart Hill Road, West Greenwich, RI.

Kevin Nelson made a motion, seconded by Will Wright to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2009 meeting with minor amendments. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission scored the Houle Farm, Pascoag, which achieved an average score of 24.4, and the Wicks Nursery, Middletown that achieved an average score of 54.4. As the minimum threshold score for acceptance is 35, Houle is therefore not accepted and Wicks Nursery is accepted in the purchase of development rights program.

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 has largely completed the subdivision process with the Town of Tiverton. The Commission has committed \$500,000, and closing is anticipated sometime in 2009.

The Commission discussed results of the USDA FRRP 2009 grant round and Ken Ayars reported that the two farms submitted by the Commission for FRPP funding were accepted, those being Kee - Warren and Luchka/Coulter – Charlestown for a total of \$550,000 in federal funds. Ken Ayars made a motion, seconded by Dave Wallace authorizing the Chair to enter into Cooperative Agreements with USDA in this regard. The motion was approved unanimously. Negotiations have yet to begin with the farmers and are dependant also on the future availability of 2008 open space bond funds which have yet to be made available.

The Commission also discussed bond funds in general and their applicability in relation to providing additional technical or staff assistance. Currently the legal opinion of DEM is bond funds can be used for no other purpose than payments to landowners for farmland development rights acquisition and related technical reports such as appraisals and surveys, not general staff assistance to the Commission. It is the desire of the Commission to seek expansion of the authorization regarding bond funds to enable use for providing additional staff assistance.

The Holscher Farm, (Good Earth Farm), Cranston was discussed and the request before the Commission to allow placement of the well and septic on the house lot cut out from the development rights easement of the farm, as the housing envelope is too small to contain both well and septic. Kevin Nelson made a motion, seconded by Dave Wallace to approve placement of the well and septic as necessary within the easement. The motion was approved unanimously.

The status of membership was again discussed. The Governor and Senate have formally reappointed Dave Wallace and appointed Jim Pagilarini. Martha Neale was discussed as a potential candidate and Everett Stuart will discuss her candidacy with the Governor's Office

The Commission discussed and agreed to keep the normal meeting schedule of the third Thursday of the month, 5pm at USDA, Warwick.

The Kent Farm, East Greenwich was again discussed with Ken Ayars asked to look into the original easement, and buildings since constructed on the farm with or without Commission approval. Michael Kent will also be asked to the next meeting to discuss his request for an additional house lot on the farm.

Dave Wallace made a motion, seconded by Will Wright, to adjourn at 4:15 pm. The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission followed the meeting with a tour of the Wright Farm (Hidden Meadows Farm) West Greenwich.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kenneth D. Ayars, Chief  
Division of Agriculture, DEM