

**AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 16, 2010 MEETING**

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Everett Stuart, Kevin Nelson, Dave Wallace, Martha Neale, and Ken Ayars.

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: George Mason, Will Wright, Jim Pagliarini

GUESTS: Mike Clifford-Clifford Farm, North Smithfield, Ed Wright and Rachel Brahm-Wrights Dairy Farm, North Smithfield, Ken Burke-Water Resources Board

STAFF: Mike Mooreman USDA/NRCS, Mike Kenyon USDA/NRCS, Lis Peterman DEM

The meeting was called to order at 5:05pm at USDA, 60 Quaker Lane, Warwick, RI by Everett Stuart. The minutes from the October 14, 2010 meeting were reviewed. Martha Neale made a motion to accept the minutes from the October 14, 2010 meeting, motion was seconded by Dave Wallace, motion passed unanimously.

There was a motion by Ev Stuart to change the order of the agenda to accommodate guests, the motion was seconded by Kevin Nelson, motion passed unanimously.

The Clifford Farm in North Smithfield was discussed, Mike Clifford talked briefly about the farm's history and Ed Wright of Wrights Dairy Farm spoke of the importance of the farm to his dairy operation as he utilizes the fields. The Town of North Smithfield is actively negotiating the sale of the development rights and working with FRPP. They would like to purchase development rights then sell the farm to Ed Wright. An appraisal has been done by the FFRP and there is 3.8 million FFRP funds available. The State 2008 Bond money of 2.5 million will be available this July 2011. A motion was made by Kevin Nelson to authorize the Commission to begin negotiations and to determine if the existing appraisal meets DEM standards and to reimburse the applicant for the appraisal if it meets the standards, the motion was seconded by Martha Neale, motion passed unanimously.

Ken Burke, the general manager for the Water Resources board spoke about the potential of a pipeline behind the Chariho School that would service the village of Alton. The pipeline has the potential to cross through farmlands which have conservation easements. It is only a preliminary plan.

Negotiations continue with the Key Farm in Warren. The current state of the economy has changed the appraisal. The current appraisal was not acceptable to the Keys. Current funding would be \$250,000.00 open space grant money, \$140,000.00 from the Town, 472,000.00 from NRCS and the ALPC is also being asked to

contribute. Martha Neale made a motion to approve up to \$100,000.00 towards the purchase of development rights for the Key Farm, Dave Wallace seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously. Money will be available next fiscal year. The Clifford Farm in North Smithfield is currently in negotiations, and the appraisal for the Pezza Farm in Cranston was completed and came in very low.

A partnership agreement between TNC, DEM, and NRCS was reached and the Contribution Agreement was distributed to Commission members. The agreement outlines that additional personnel will be hired to develop and maintain spreadsheets which outline budgeting and farms in negotiations in addition to farms currently accepted in the program. This will give the Commission a current view of where money is being spent and available money which is an ongoing concern.

The Town of Bristol is trying to close on Fales, and Pagano which should close shortly, Usher is still under negotiations. The Town would like the ALPC to contribute and additional \$154.05 towards the appraisal. A motion was made by Martha Neale to increase the amount of money for the appraisal by \$154.05, Dave Wallace seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

The application for Payne Farm on Block Island was distributed to Commission members for review and will be scored at a later date. The application for Cucumber Hill Farm (Paulhus) in Foster was

reviewed and scored. The farm received a total score of 38.7 and will be accepted into the program. A motion was made by Ken Ayars to accept Cucumber Hill Farm (Paulhus) into the program, the motion was seconded by Dave Wallace, the motion passed unanimously.

Commission membership was discussed, there is still a vacancy and it was noted that the election of officers should be on the meeting agenda for next month. The meeting schedule shall remain the same the third Thursday of the month.

The Clorite property in Saunderstown was discussed in regards to prior wetlands permit. The permit was issued based on the owner donating an easement with two small house lots kept out. A motion was made by Dave Wallace to authorize the Chair to sign the deed to development rights on the Clorite easement donation, the motion was seconded by Kevin Nelson, the motion passed unanimously.

The deadline for FFRP applications is February 14, 2011 so at the January meeting all applications must be submitted for review to meet the February deadline.

There was discussion that a "Thank You" letter should be sent to Director Sullivan and a "Welcome" letter should be sent to the new Director.

It was noted that a letter was sent by the Chair on October 13, 2010 to

DEM asking for guidance on alternative energy projects pertaining to farms which have sold their development rights.

A motion was made by Kevin Nelson to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Martha Neale, the motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:05pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lis Peterman, DEM/Division of Agriculture