

AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 8, 2011 MEETING

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:none

GUESTS: Rupert Friday, Director RI Land Trust Council, Mr. King from Green River Alpaca Farm in North Kingstown and Kevin Breene.

STAFF: Lis Peterman DEM/Agriculture, Michelle Sheehan DEM/Planning, Mike Kenyon USDA/NRCS and Mike Moorman USDA/NRCS.

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 pm at USDA, 60 Quaker Lane, Warwick, RI by George Mason. The August 25, 2011 meeting minutes were reviewed. Will Wight made a motion to accept the minutes from the August 25, 2011 meeting as written, motion was seconded by Everett Stuart, motion passed unanimously.

There was a discussion about the deeds for development rights for both Rocky Point Farm in Warwick and Clifford Farm in North Smithfield. Both properties should close before the end of the year.

The appraisal for the Pezza Farm was discussed. Mary Kay (DEM/legal) provided the Commission a letter confirming that the appraisal procedures had been approved by DEM legal and negotiations will move ahead in 2012.

Two new applications were reviewed and scored. Prior to scoring, Mr. King from Green River Alpaca Farm in North Kingstown talked about his desire to purchase Five Falls Arabians in North Kingstown if the development rights are purchased by ALPC. The Hence Farm in Newport was scored and achieved a total of 29, less than the minimum score required to qualify for the program. Five Falls Arabian's Farm in North Kingstown was scored and achieved a score of 40.2. A motion was made by Martha Neale to accept Five Falls Arabians Farm into the program and to authorize an appraisal for the property, the motion was seconded by Will Wright, motion passed unanimously.

Mike Moorman USDA/NRCS reported that states can now become certified Federal Farm Ranch Protection Program entities that may facilitate land acquisition process. A motion was made by George Mason that the Chair or Vice-Chair execute the application with NRCS to become a certified entity for FRPP, the motion was seconded by Dave Wallace, motion passed unanimously.

There are 2 vacancies for Commission membership. Kevin Breene, a dairy farmer from West Greenwich, was in attendance and expressed

his interest to fill one of the vacancies.

Future meeting dates were discussed and a motion was made by Kevin Nelson to continue meetings on the third Thursday of every month, the motion was seconded by Everett Stuart, the motion passed unanimously.

There was a general discussion about setting up a stewardship project to have an inventory of all the farms that have been protected and current land uses. Dave Wallace, Kevin Nelson and George Mason would all like to participate in a subcommittee for stewardship.

A motion was made by Kevin Nelson to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Everett Stuart, motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lis Peterman, Division of Agriculture, RIDEM