

AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 19, 2012 MEETING

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

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

GUESTS: Richard Schartner from Scharner's Farm in Exeter

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 pm at USDA, 60 Quaker Lane, Warwick, RI by Kevin Nelson. The December 8, 2011 meeting minutes were reviewed. Everett Stuart made a motion to accept the minutes from the December 8, 2011 meeting as written, motion was seconded by Ken Ayars, motion passed unanimously.

Richard Schartner expressed his desire to subdivide the Bald Hill property (route102 farm) as stated in the deed to development rights. Exhibit B, section A of the Deed to Development Rights states "No further subdivision or division of the Premises or any portion thereof into two or more lots shall be permitted except the lot lines for the

Route 102 Farm and the Route 2 Farm may be moved provided that neither the Route 2 Farm and Route 102 Farm shall at no time contain less than 42 acres.” A motion was made by Dave Wallace to affirm exhibit B of the Deed to Development Rights, the motion was seconded by Martha Neale, motion passed unanimously.

There was discussion of farms in negotiations. Cucumber Hill Farm is receiving 80% of its funding for the development rights from various sources. A total of 80,000.00 is being requested from the ALPC. A motion was made by Martha Neale to approve 80,000.00 towards the purchase of development rights for Cucumber Hill Farm, the motion was seconded by Dave Wallace, motion passed unanimously. The St. Pierre Farm in Little Compton was discussed. The funding for this project will come from FRPP, the Little Compton Land Trust and ALPC. A total of 155,000.00 is needed from ALPC. A motion was made by Everett Stuart to approve 155,000.00 towards the purchase of development rights for the St. Pierre Farm, the motion was seconded by Dave Wallace, motion passed unanimously. The Payne Farm on Block Island was discussed. Funding sources for this project include the Nature Conservancy and the Block Island Land Trust. A total of 300,000.00 is being requested from ALPC to fund this project. A motion was made by Dave Wallace to approve 300,000 towards the purchase of development rights for Payne Farm, Martha Neale seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously. The Tefft Farm (Aubilene Farm) in Hopkinton was discussed. Funding sources include Federal Highway Funds, Trust For Public Lands, and possibly

The Champlain Foundation. Up to 200,000.00 is being requested from ALPC to fund this project. A motion was made by Everett Stuart to approve up to 200,000.00 towards the purchase of development rights for Tefft (Aubilene) Farm, the motion was seconded by Martha Neale, motion passed unanimously. The appraisal for Five Falls Arabians in North Kingstown was completed and will be moving ahead in the negotiation process. The Clifford Farm in North Smithfield was discussed. The owner, Michael Clifford, is requesting a total reimbursement of 12,650 from ALPC for overhead costs which includes 4500.00 for the appraisal and 8150.00 for survey. Martha Neale made a motion to approve 12,650.00 for reimbursement towards the purchase of development rights for Clifford Farm, the motion was seconded by Everett Stuart, the motion passed unanimously.

Several new applications for purchase for development rights were distributed and will be scored at a future meeting.

The Stewardship Committee report was discussed. Michelle Sheehan provided a report with a list of protected farms and status of easement monitoring in collaboration with partnering organizations. There was a discussion of how to create a baseline document after the fact possible with URI students. It was suggested to get a legal opinion from Mary Kay (DEM/Legal) as to whether board funds can be used to pay for baseline document reports. Mike Kenyon was asked to bring information on NRCS's monitoring process and goals for the

next meeting.

Mike Kenyon distributed revised soil maps for the Hence Farm located in Westerly. Hence has improved soil quality by removing stones and will be rescored at the next meeting based on the new soil maps.

Federal Farmland and Ranch Protection Program has more applications this year than funding. Currently there is 5.5 million dollars available between regular and regional funding equally.

There are 2 vacancies for Commission membership and will be discussed with the Director.

The next ALPC meeting will be tentatively scheduled for May 17, 2012.

.A motion was made by Dave Wallace to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Martha Neale, motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lis Peterman, Division of Agriculture, RIDEM