

AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 30, 2012 MEETING

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Pagliarini

GUESTS: Harvey Perry from the Westerly Land Trust in support of Hillandale Farm.

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 pm at USDA, 60 Quaker Lane, Warwick, RI by George Mason. The August 9, 2012 minutes were not available to review.

There was a brief discussion of farms in negotiations. The Pezza Farm, St. Pierre Farm, Payne Farm and Manfredi are under Federal review.

Hillandale Farm (Max Hence, Westerly) was scored again based on

the resubmission of maps. Hillandale achieved a score of 31.4 which is still too low to be accepted in to the ALPC program. Woody Hill Bed and Breakfast (Madison, Westerly) was scored and achieved a score of 33.7.

There was a discussion about stewardship and the possibility of URI students conducting baseline surveys. Peter August from the University may be able to find a student that could perform the work, but a stipend may be necessary. The project will be brought before the Conservation Stewardship Collaborative Committee for assistance. It was also suggested that the Conservation Districts be contacted for assistance as well. The Federal Farmland and Ranch Protection Program is in the process of signing agreements and there is 6.3 million in total funding on 8 parcels.

Kevin Nelson made a motion to cancel the September ALPC meeting because of the two meetings held in August, motion was seconded by Dave Wallace, motioned passed unanimously. A motion was made by George Mason to adjourn the meeting, Will Wright seconded the motion, motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lis Peterman, Division of Agriculture, RIDEM