

**AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 13, 2012 MEETING**

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Pagliarini, and Dave Wallace.

GUESTS: None

STAFF: Mike Moorman USDA/NRCS, and Mike Kenyon USDA/NRCS

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm at USDA, 60 Quaker Lane, Warwick, RI by George Mason. The August 30, 2012 meeting minutes were reviewed. Martha Neal made a motion to accept the minutes from the August 30, 2012, motion was seconded by Will Wright, motion passed unanimously.

The minutes to the August 9, 2012 meeting were reviewed. Everett Stuart made a motion to accept the minutes from the August 9, 2012 meeting, motion was seconded by Will Wright, motion passed unanimously.

There was an update on the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program. Rhode Island received 3.5 million in FRPP allocations in 2012 which

was increased to approximately 6 million with regional equity, and was all applied to farmland protection projects by NRCS in 2012.

The 2013 meeting schedule for ALPC was discussed and agreed that meetings would be held on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 5 pm in the conference room at USDA/NRCS, 60 Quaker Lane, Warwick. A motion was made by Kevin Nelson to approve the 2013 meeting schedule, motion was seconded by Will Wright, motion passed unanimously

The Bailey Farm, East Greenwich application was reviewed and scored. The farm achieved a total score of 50.3 which is high enough to be accepted in the program (minimum score for acceptance is 35). The Lial Farm, Warren application was also reviewed and scored. The farm achieved a total score of 45.8 which is high enough to be accepted into the program. Will Wright made a motion to accept the scores of Bailey Farm and Lial Farm and to order appraisals for both properties, motion was seconded by Martha Neale, motion passed unanimously

There was discussion of farms in negotiations. The St. Pierre Farm in Little Compton just closed and Pezza Farm in Johnston is due to close the end of December 2012. The Cabot Farm in Little Compton closed on state funding portion. The Payne Farm, Block Island is still in negotiations, but hopefully will close in the first half of next year. The Tefft Farm, Hopkinton, and Manfredi Farm, Westerly were both

recently appraised, but the appraisals were low and not to the landowners' satisfaction and therefore negotiations for each farm have paused. The Trust for Public Lands was the lead in negotiations for the Tefft farm. There is no progress with Five Falls Arabians as of now. Martha Neale made a motion to reimburse The Nature Conservancy for appraisal costs associated with the Pezza Farm, motion was seconded by Will Wright, motion passed unanimously.

A draft copy of the annual report was distributed and discussed briefly. The Commission membership was discussed and Everett Stuart has expressed desire to stay on as a member. The Commission will forward the request to the Director of DEM, Janet Coit so she may inform the Governor's office about the need to appoint new members to the Commission.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lis Peterman, Division of Agriculture, RIDEM