

**AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION COMMISSION
MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 21, 2013 MEETING**

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

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: George Mason, Jim Pagliarini, and Everett Stuart.

GUESTS: Richard Schartner from Schartner Farms and Attorney Kirk Albert (representing Schartner Farms)

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 pm at USDA, 60 Quaker Lane, Warwick, RI by Vice Chair Kevin Nelson, a quorum was not yet present so only items which did not require a vote could be discussed. At 5:30 pm a full quorum was present.

The minutes from the December 13, 2012 meeting were reviewed. Martha Neale made a motion to accept the December 13, 2012 minutes, Ken Ayars seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Michelle Sheehan updated the Commission on farms currently in negotiations. The Payne Farm (Block Island) is deciding what parcels to be left out and not included for the purchase of development rights. The Lial Farm (Warren) and Bailey Farm (East Greenwich) will have appraisals conducted next week. The Manfredi Farm (Westerly), Tefft Farm (Hopkinton) and Recchia Farm are all waiting for appraisals to be completed.

Mike Kenyon of USDA provided an update on the Federal Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP). Potential applicants have been notified that ranking is being conducted and that additional time can be requested if needed. Rhode Island received \$3.5 million in base FRPP allocation in 2012 and there is an additional \$650,000 potentially available if needed.

Richard Schartner from Schartner Farms expressed his desire to re-enter into the program a 20 acre parcel of the farm which was excluded when the development rights to the “Bald Hill” farm were purchased. The parcel was previously scored and accepted into the program and no changes have been made to the parcel since it was last scored, and the Commission therefore determined it was not necessary to re-score. Kevin Nelson made a motion to authorize an appraisal for the 20 acre parcel on Schartner Farm in Exeter, North Kingstown, Will Wright seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

There was a funding request from the Town of North Kingstown for \$150,000 for Rippin and in the future the town will be seeking funding for Fletcher Road parcel. A motion was made by Martha Neale to approve \$150,000 from the ALPC toward the Rippin project, the motion was seconded by Will Wright and passed unanimously.

There are three farms which will be submitted by the ALPC to the Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP) for funding which include Bailey Farm (East Greenwich), Lial Farm (Warren) and Golden Tassle (Bettencourt in Tiverton). A motion was made by Dave Wallace to approve Bailey Farm, Lial Farm, and Golden Tassle farm for submission to FRPP for funding, the motion was seconded by Will Wright and passed unanimously.

The Governor's Office has reviewed the status of the Commission membership and inquired as to the interest of members in being reappointed. All current members except Jim Pagliarini (who has yet to respond) have expressed their desire to stay on as Commission members.

The Boland Farm, Tiverton application was reviewed and scored. The farm achieved a total score of 42.2 which is high enough to be accepted in the program (minimum score for acceptance is 35). The Henry Tree Farm, Hope application was reviewed and scored. The farm achieved a total score of 41.8 which is high enough to be accepted into the program. The Knibb Farm, Johnston application

was reviewed and scored. The farm achieved a total score of 37.2 which is high enough to be accepted into the program. Sun Orchards (McConville) in Scituate was also reviewed and scored, and the farm achieved a score of 42.4 which is high enough to be accepted into the program. Will Wright made a motion to accept the scores of Boland Farm, Henry Tree Farm, Knibb's Farm and Sunset Orchards and to authorize appraisals for all properties, motion was seconded by Martha Neale, the motion passed unanimously.

There will be a Young Farmers Workshop sponsored by FSA and Farm Bureau on March 13, 2013 if anyone is interested and also a Transferring the Farm Workshop sponsored by DEM and URI on March 7, 2013.

A motion was made by Dave Wallace to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Will Wright, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lis Peterman, Division of Agriculture

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