



AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION COMMISSION (ALPC)
MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 17, 2014 MEETING

DRAFT

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin Nelson, Martha Neale, Everett Stuart, Fay Strongin, Will Wright

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: David Wallace, John Reiner, George Mason, Ken Ayars

STAFF: Lauren Farley – DEM, Mike Kenyon – USDA / NRCS

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 pm at USDA, 60 Quaker Lane, Warwick, RI by K. Nelson, Vice Chair.

On a motion by E. Stuart and a second by K. Nelson, the Commission voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the August, 2014 meeting with minor amendments.

ALPC Budget

L. Farley gave an update on the ALPC budget. The current balance with the July 2014 bond apportionment (\$1.5 million) and current project and overhead commitments included is \$892,500. Another \$1.5 million apportionment is due July 1, 2015. Current project commitments are \$150,000 to Rippin in N. Kingstown, \$192,500 to Lial in Warren, \$255,000 to Bettencourt in Tiverton, \$550,000 to Bailey, \$185,000 to Regnier/Fletcher Road, and \$200,000 to Whaley Farm in South Kingstown. Current overhead commitments (appraisals and survey) total \$95,000.

Bond

L. Farley provided information on Question 7 which will be on the November 4, 2014 ballot. A “Kick-Off” campaign for the Bond measure will take place on Monday, September 22, 2014 in Providence. ALPC members were encouraged to attend.

Scoring

Gammell-Roach Farm, Ives Road in Portsmouth was scored by the Commission and achieved an average score of 40.6

The minimum score for acceptance into the program is 35, On a Motion by W. Wright and a second by E. Stuart, the Commission voted unanimously to accept Gammell-Roach Farm into the program and to authorize an appraisal.

NRCS Easement Monitoring Update

L. Farley informed the Commission that NRCS is requiring Easement Monitoring reports be submitted for protected farms that received FRPP funding. We are out of compliance. Discussions at DEM are happening regarding retroactive monitoring conducted by current staff on closed projects. Staff is discussing with State Conservation Committee the capacity to monitor future projects. The current structure and capabilities of the conservation districts were discussed. On a motion by W. Wright and a second by E. Stuart the Commission voted unanimously authorize DEM staff to enter negotiations to determine a pricing structure for easement monitoring services conducted by the conservation districts.

Announcements/Additional Business

Logistics for voluntary signage of protected farms is being worked out.

There being no further business, on a motion by W. Wright and a second by M. Neale, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Farley
Division of Planning and Development
RIDEM