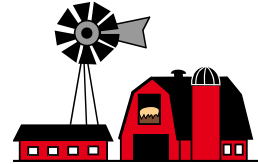




STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS
Agricultural Lands Preservation Commission
c/o Department of Environmental Management
235 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908



AGRICULTURAL LANDS PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes for
Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 4:00 pm

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Laura Bozzi, Kevin Nelson, Diane Lynch, Everett Stuart, Michelle Sheehan for Ken Ayars

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Ken Ayars, Martha Neale, Jon Reiner, Dave Wallace

STAFF: Michelle Sheehan – DEM

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 at USDA, 60 Quaker Lane, Warwick, RI by K. Nelson, Chair.

- 1. Meeting Minutes. On a motion by D. Lynch and a second by K. Nelson, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2018 meeting.**
- 2. ALPC Schedule 2018. On a Motion by D. Lynch and a second by L. Bozzi the Commission voted unanimously to accept the proposed Schedule of meetings.**
- 3. Review of current ALPC budget.** M. Sheehan provided update on the current budget. The current balance is \$3,036,141. M. Sheehan noted that after reconciling the bond budgets, there is a slight discrepancy in budget totals between the official bond account and ALPC's running total. \$3,098,233 is the total amount in farmland bond accounts.
- 4. Status update of farms in negotiation**
 - a. Kenney – Woody Hill Road, Hopkinton – brief update on this project, which is now under contract
 - b. Berlinsky – Hopkins Hill Road, West Greenwich – appraised at \$370,000. Negotiations have completed and the P&S will go to the State Properties Committee for approval on March 27th.
- 5. Applications to score:**
 - a. Barden – 56 Elmdale Road, North Scituate, RI. This application was not scored due to an error on DEM's maps.
 - b. Hamlin – 140 Evans Road, Glocester, RI, was scored by the Commission and achieved an average score of 38.6.

The minimum score for acceptance into the program is 35. **On a Motion by D. Lynch and a second by E. Stuart the Commission voted unanimously to accept Hamlin into the program and to authorize an appraisal.**

6. **ALPC Scoring Criteria.** The Commission reviewed the marked-up Scoring Criteria Rating Sheet and noticed that the scores only added up to 65. D. Lynch suggested adding 5 points to Agricultural Operation and Viability. K. Nelson stated his preference for increasing the Water Supplies category. M. Sheehan wondered how the Commission should consider farms that contribute to negatively to water quality. K. Nelson suggested that this issue should be not be part of the scoring process. D. Lynch wondered what next steps were. K Nelson stated that now the Rules & Regulations need to be amended to reflect these changes – and then the handbook and application should also be amended. K. Nelson will work on marking up the Rules & Regulations. M. Sheehan will work on the application.
7. **NRCS Agricultural Conservation Easement Program** – deferred.

There being no further business, on a motion L. Bozzi, seconded by D. Lynch, the Commission voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 5:20.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Sheehan, DEM