

MINUTES OF FARMLAND COMMITTEE

Suffolk County Planning Department

- Date: February 8, 2000
- Present: Stephen M. Jones, Chairman
Charlie Scheer (At-Large)
Anthony Brand, Jr., (Huntington)
Albert Schmitt (At-Large)
Bennett Orłowski, Jr. (At-Large)
Joseph Krukowski (Southold)
Nate Corwin (At-Large)
Jacob Rottkamp (Riverhead)
Roy Fedelem, S.C. Dept. of Planning
Albert Kilb, Jr. (Shelter Island)
Lee Foster (Southampton)
Olney M. Gardiner (East Hampton)
Mark Zaweski (At-Large)
Russell Barnett (Smithtown)
Jenny Kohn, Esq., Counsel
- Guests: William Sanok, CCE
Chris Wrede, Real Estate Division
Joseph Gergela
Abigail Wickham
George Priois
- Absent: Brian Zitani (Babylon)
Dan Fricke
William Rutkoske (Islip)
Elmer Zeh (Brookhaven)

The *rescheduled* meeting of the Farmland Committee was called to order by the Chairman, Stephen Jones, at 3:07 at the Arthur Kunz Memorial Library, H. Lee Dennison Bldg., Hauppauge, NY.

Approval of Minutes

A correction was made to the minutes to reflect the presence of Dan Fricke at the October 26, 1999 meeting. **A motion was put forth by Bennett Orłowski and seconded by Anthony Brand to approve the minutes of the October 26, 1999 meeting of the Farmland Committee. Motion carried.**

Brad Reeves-Turkey Fence on His Farm in Aquebogue

A letter from Mr. Reeves to the Committee was read. It was noted that the turkey pens were in a remote part of the farm and not near any houses. William Sanok from the Cooperative Extension, noted that while the request was only for fencing, some shelter needed to be provided for the turkeys, as they could be susceptible to disease if left on the ground. **A motion was made by Charles Scheer to allow the turkey fencing (as shown on a survey) and some temporary shelter (without a foundation). Motion was seconded by Bennett Orłowski. Motion carried.**

Ray Kujawski-Four Morton Farm Buildings

A letter from Mr. Kujawski was read to the Committee. Maps showing the possible location of four (4) building sites on three (3) parcels in Northville were distributed. The buildings would be 60' x 120' . One of the Committee members stated that one building was smaller. The merits of each site were discussed. **A motion was made by Bennett Orłowski to approve two buildings which were applicable for any of the four (4) sites.** These sites must meet Town regulations and setbacks. Although four (4) sites were approved, any additional buildings (beyond the two (2) approved) would have to be reviewed by the Committee. **The motion was seconded by Albert Schmitt. Motion carried.**

Heilbut Farm -Sense of the Committee Migrant Housing

Dr. Heilbut requested a sense of the Committee as to how they would feel about migrant housing. It was stated that the NYS Sanitation Law would require approval of the Suffolk County Health Department if the facility exceeds room for four (4) migrant workers. The Committee does not currently have a policy regarding migrant housing and it was felt that one should not be put in concrete.

Joe Gergela suggested that no action be taken at this meeting and a policy for consideration should be developed for the next meeting. He further stated that the Committee should not close the door on this issue.

Russell McCall -Request Split Rail Fencing of Four (4) Acres for Ponies

A letter and map were submitted by Gail Wickham. She was present at the meeting and represented the owner.

A Committee member questioned where the ponies would be sheltered. There is a barn on the piece where development rights were not acquired. **Motion to approve the fence was made by Bennett Orłowski and seconded by Jacob Rottkamp. Motion carried.**

Jeffrey Rottkamp-Requesting Permission to Move Irrigation Well to Center of Parcel.

The Committee would need to grant permission to move the irrigation well from its current

location next to the property line, to the middle of the parcel. This would alleviate the possibility of future problems with neighbors and it would be placed in an area that is not under cultivation.

George Priois informed the Committee that the Health Department has been considering putting new irrigation wells down gradient of farms to recover nitrates seeping into the groundwater. It was suggested that the Rottkamps might want to contact Sy Robbins of the Health Department. **Motion to approve moving the irrigation wells was made by Bennett Orłowski, seconded by Lee Foster. Motion carried with one abstention (Jacob Rottkamp).**

New Additions to the Waiting List for Future Acquisitions

The Peconic Land Trust submitted a list of six (6) parcels to the Committee so they can work toward acquisition with a combination of County and Town funds. Three (3) of these were previously approved by the Committee.

The first parcel reviewed, submitted by John Sipala rather than the Peconic Land Trust, was rated the highest. **A motion to accept this parcel was made by Lee Foster and seconded by Nate Corwin. Motion carried.**

The next three (3) parcels were all submitted by the Peconic Land Trust.

The Russell Ireland parcel was reviewed and approved.

A motion was made by Charlie Scheer and seconded by Lee Foster. Motion carried.

The Helen Hubbard property has four (4) houses and a commercial barn (to be left out of the acquisition). A question was raised as to whether the correct parcel was shown on the map. (Staff later confirmed the map to be correct). **Motion to approve parcel with the barn left on an out parcel was made by Nate Corwin and seconded by Charles Scheer. Motion carried.**

The Leander Glover property in Cutchogue was reviewed and approved. **Motion made by Bennett Orłowski and seconded by Charles Scheer. Motion carried.**

Update on PDR Seminar by the Peconic Land Trust on February 8, 2000

This was originally on the agenda as a reminder for people to attend and remained on the agenda for comments from the people attending.

The seminar addressed all options of preserving farmland. A major concern was pesticide regulation. Lee Foster suggested that this might be an item for the Farmland Committee. The Town of East Hampton may regulate pesticides.

Joseph Gergela commented on the control of pesticides by indicating the seriousness of this issue. Bennett Orłowski added that millions are spent preserving farmland but nothing is done to protect farmers.

Joseph Gergela stated that this is an issue for the Agricultural Protection Board. He feels the Board should make a public statement.

Olney Gardiner noted that some people only want to see organic farms. William Sanok commented that organic does not always indicate safer.

Shelter Island's Comprehensive Plan may ban the use of pesticides and fertilizer in a large area.

Bennett Orlowski suggested that the Farmland Committee support other groups addressing farmers' concerns.

Other Business

Roy Fedelem mentioned that the Committee's waiting list is very short. Solicitation might be necessary to acquire more land.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 25, 2000 in the H. Lee Dennison Bldg., 4th Fl., Hauppauge at 6:00.

Charles Scheer made a motion to adjourn at 4:30. It was seconded by Jacob Rottkamp. Motion carried.