

MINUTES OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY FARMLAND COMMITTEE

Suffolk County Planning Department

Date: April 27, 2004

Members Present: Bennett Orłowski, Jr. (At-Large), Chairman
Thomas A. Isles, Suffolk County Dept. of Planning Director (At-Large)
Eugene Murphy (Islip)
Albert Schmitt (At-Large)
Ronald Bush (At-Large)
Lee Foster (Southampton)
Alfred J. Kilb, Jr. (Shelter Island)
Charlie Scheer (At-Large)
Elmer Zeh (Brookhaven)
Jacob Rottkamp (Riverhead)
Nate Corwin (At-Large)
Olney M. Gardiner (East Hampton)
Mark Zaweski (At-Large)
Joseph Krukowski (Southold)

County Staff Present: James Burke, Suffolk County Div. of Real Estate
Janet Longo, Suffolk County Div. of Real Estate
Robert Zaher, Suffolk County Div. of Real Estate
R.J. Bhatt, Suffolk County Div. of Real Estate
Chris Wrede, S. C. Dept. of Planning
Roy Fedelem, S.C. Dept. of Planning

Guests: Joseph Gergela, L.I. Farm Bureau
Mark Bridgen, Cornell University
Ray Huntington, Southold Land Preservation Committee
Melissa Spiro, Southold Land Preservation Dept.
Marian Sumner, Peconic Land Trust
Jim Glover

Members Absent: Dan Fricke (Riverhead)
Reed W. Jarvis, Jr. (At-Large)
Anthony Brand, Jr. (Huntington)
Russell Barnett (Smithtown)

The meeting of the Suffolk County Farmland Committee was called to order by Chairman Orłowski, at 6:10 p.m. at the Long Island Horticulture Research & Extension Center, Riverhead, NY

Chairman Orłowski introduced Mark Bridgen, the new Farm Director of the Research Center.

Public Portion

Acknowledgment of public portion. No one requested time to speak at this time.

Joe Gergela inquired as to who added the Froelich Farm to the waiting list. He said that the landowner did not authorize putting it on the list. Mr. Gergela said the Committee should have a policy that they do not accept applications from anyone other than the landowner or their representative.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was put forth by Nate Corwin and seconded by Al Schmitt to approve the minutes, as corrected, of the February 11, 2004 meeting of the Farmland Committee. Motion carried. 14-0-0.

Deer Fence for Bob Nolan in the hamlet of Brookhaven

Mr. Nolan requested approval for a deer fence that been tentatively approved previous to the April 27, 2004 Farmland meeting. **A motion for approval was made by Jacob Rottkamp and seconded by Charles Scheer. Motion carried. 14-0-0.**

Roufanis-(former Fleming Farm in Orient) Permission to build steps on bluff down to the Sound.

A request was made by real estate agents and on the behalf of people interested in purchasing the property, for permission to build steps down the bluff to the Sound in order to obtain access to the beach. **A motion was made by Albert Kilb to table this until a request is made from the owner. Motion was seconded by Charles Scheer. Motion carried 14-0-0.**

Are the following uses allowed: Polo matches, horse shows, corn mazes?

There was an extensive discussion on horse shows and Polo matches. The conclusion of the Committee was that neither would be permitted on Agricultural property. **A motion was made by Charles Scheer that Polo matches and horse shows would only be allowed on non-PDR land. The motion was seconded by Lee Foster. Motion carried. 14-0-0. Charles Scheer made a motion to amend the Farmland Committee's policies (a portion of which was read by Joseph Gergela) and to adopt the guidelines for review of the Local Laws Affecting Direct Farm Market Activities. This motion was tabled until the next meeting.**

New parcels to be added to the waiting list

Kyle Parcel - Located in Southold consisting of a 23 acre parcel (Mr. Kyle chose to leave out one of the lots) and scored 18 by the Committee. **A motion for approval was made by Elmer Zeh and seconded by Jacob Rottkamp. Motion carried. 14-0-0.**

Deleyer - Located in East Hampton consisting of 14.8 acres and scored 8 by the Committee. **A motion for approval was made by Albert Kilb and seconded by Elmer Zed. Motion carried. 14-0-0.**

North Shore Homefind Res. - Located in Coram consisting of 23 acres and scored 13 by the Committee. **A motion for approval was made by Ronald Bush and seconded by Albert Kilb. Motion carried. 14-0-0.**

At the November 11, 2004 meeting only part of the Harbes property (the northern portion) was approved for purchase of development rights because top soil had been removed. The top soil has subsequently been replaced. **A motion for approval was made by Charles Scheer to amend the previous motion, to now include the remainder of the parcel (the southern portion). The motion was seconded by Nate Corwin. Motion carried. 14-0-0.**

Other Business

A question was raised regarding comments made by Richard Amper. Is there \$100 million available for PDR land? Mr. Amper made the statement that there is no reason to have TDR's in Riverhead because there is plenty of money in the County to purchase farmland. Tom Isles responded, informing the Committee that maybe in all programs total there is approximately \$100 million, but there is substantially less farmland money to work with. The decision for allocation of money is made by the Legislature. There was a discussion on future funding for PDR land as well as a discussion on the funding of Suffolk County parklands.

Tom Isles informed the Committee that there is a new Committee in the Legislature. The ELAP Committee (Environmental Land Acquisition and Planning) has been re-formed and is now called Environmental Planning & Agriculture (EPA). There was some sentiment by one of the Legislators on the EPA Committee that he was concerned about the County's PDR program and the type of farming that was going on. Mr. Isles presented this concern to the Farmland Committee for their comments and thoughts. A member of the Farmland Committee stated that, with the great evolution in farming, for farming to be profitable and to increase production, it will be necessary take advantage of alternatives, such as "high tunnels" to extend the season and increase profits.

Next Meeting: July 20, 2004 at 6:00 P.M. at the Long Island Horticulture Research & Extension Center, Riverhead, NY

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:30 P.M. by Charles Scheer and seconded by Jacob Rottkamp. Motion carried. 14-0-0.