

MINUTES OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY FARMLAND COMMITTEE
Suffolk County Planning Department

Date: November 14, 2007

Members Present: Bennett Orłowski, Jr. (At-Large), Chairman
Thomas A. Isles, Suffolk County Dept. of Planning Director (At-Large)
Jeffrey Rottkamp (Riverhead)
Lee Foster (Southampton)
Alfred J. Kilb, Jr. (Shelter Island)
Eugene Murphy (Islip)
Dan Fricke (At-Large)
Charlie Scheer (At-Large)
Mark Zaweski (At-Large)
Dale Moyer (At-Large)
Albert Schmitt (At-Large)
Ronald Bush (At-Large)
Joseph Krukowski (Southold)

County Staff Present: Daniel Gulizio, Deputy Director, Dept. of Planning
Janet Longo, Suffolk County Div. of Real Estate
Chris Kent, Suffolk County Div. of Real Estate
Roy Fedelem, Suffolk County Dept. of Planning
Jenny Kohn, Suffolk County Department of Law

Guests: Allan Connell, USDA NRCS
William Sanok, Cornell Cooperative Ext. (retired)
Melissa Spiro
Andrew Cassidy
Doug Dittko
Tom McGunnigle
Paulette Satur
Guy W. Germano, Attorney
Russell Weiss
Marie Tooker
Annmarie Prudenti

Members Absent: Nate Corwin (At-Large)
Olney M. Gardiner (East Hampton)
Russell Barnett (Smithtown)

Chairman Orłowski called the meeting of the Suffolk County Farmland Committee to order at 6:08 p.m. at the L.I. Horticulture Research & Extension Center, 3059 Sound Avenue, Riverhead, NY.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was put forth by Lee Foster and seconded by Mark Zaweski to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2007 and September 18, 2007 meetings of the Farmland Committee. Motion carried. 12-0-0.

ABBESS FARM – SAND MINING

Tom Isles gave the Farmland Committee a little history of Abbess Farm (formerly Crown Stables). The County has issued a “stop work” order because of the possibility of illegal excavation of sand on about 3 acres of land to a depth of 3 ft.

The property owner, Marie Tooker, told the Committee that the topsoil was pushed aside and the sand was removed and sent out for screening. It will be returned and used for Dressage rings for horses. She stated that, “she has not been paid for sand”. She was told to come back to the Committee with an application.

RUSSELL WEISS – FORMERLY HANLEY FARM-GREENHOUSES

Guy Germano, attorney, presented a Master Plan for the former Hanley property. Allan Connell’s, USDA NRCS, worked on a drainage plan. A shallow pond would be created at the southwest corner. The plan covers approximately 25% of the property with ditches running north/south with water running into grass waterway (recharge basins) then into the pond.

Doug Ditko feels the Farmland Committee should hold off making a decision now on the approval of the final phase.

The Committee gave Mr. Weiss permission to clear the nursery. He stated that they would be maintaining grade and would fill in holes. The irrigation system will consist of overhead irrigation.

Allan Connell will return with a full report at the next meeting.

TOM Mc GUNNIGLE – PERMISSION TO EXPAND A HOUSE

Mr. McGunnigle needs permission to expand a house and to make it handicapped accessible. He would like to replace an existing 14 ft. deck and extend out 20 ft. **SEQRA determination Type II Action was made and approved. Motion carried. 13-0-0. A motion for approval was made by Charles Scheer and seconded by Albert Kilb. Motion carried. 13-0-0.**

TIM STEELE – COMPOSTING

A freedom of information request sent to the County Executive complained of composting on the Timothy Steele property (Tandy farm). Roy Fedelem requested the Div. of Real Estate check into this complaint. Composting is allowed up to 3,000 yards without a permit. Between 3,000 to 10,000 yards a permit is required from the D.E.C. All compost is to be used on property.

PAULETTE SATUR-GREENHOUSES

Ms. Satur presented the Committee with a new drawing showing greenhouses and a 7,000 sq. ft. barn so that she can get rid of the refrigeration trailers. The loading dock would be situated away

from the road. She already has permission from the Town of Southold to build the barn on non-PDR property. She will come back to the Committee with a new site plan to request permission to expand the barn.

DETMER FARM

A complaint has been received that Mr. O'Neil still is not complying with the requirements of the Farmland Committee. Tom Isles will discuss this with the County Attorney.

DISCUSSION ON GREENHOUSE

Chairman Orlowski asked if anyone had any comments on greenhouse.

- Charles Scheer told the Committee that removable Marston mats that lock together can be used as walkways in greenhouses.
- Mary Ann Prudenti told the Committee that she would like to see the east end towns onboard with the greenhouse guidelines.

VALERIE GOODE

She was not present to speak

AMY TIEL – SOUTHOLD

Amy Tiel, a resident of Southold, submitted a letter to the Chairman of the Farmland Committee requesting permission to use a PDR road as access to a winery (Purita Winery). Ms. Tiel wants to build a winery and tasting room at Purita Vineyard. The Committee feels this is acceptable as long as it is an unpaved farm road and not open to the public. A letter will be sent to the Town of Southold stating that the Committee has no objection.

NEW PARCELS TO BE ADDED TO THE WAITING LIST

Diane Soja – 6 acres located in Medford in the Town of Brookhaven scored 1 by the Farmland Committee. Nicole Kokalacus spoke on behalf of Diane Soja. **A motion for disapproval was made by Albert Kilb and seconded by Albert Schmitt. Motion carried. 13-0-0.**

DeLea- 108 acres in Miller Place in the Town of Brookhaven. Old filed map. Previously approved.

Baer (Fink) – 11.1 acres located in Wading River in the Town of Riverhead scored 8 by the Committee. **A motion for disapproval was made by Charles Scheer and seconded by Mark Zaweski. Motion carried. 13-0-0.**

Cassidy – 6.5 acres in Southold in the Town of Southold scored 10 by the Committee. **A motion for approval was made by Charlie Scheer and seconded by Mark Zaweski. Motion carried. 13-0-0.**

ROBERT SCHLECT – STANDARD DEER FENCE

A motion for a SEQRA determination Type II Action was made by Chairman Orlowski and seconded by Al Kilb. Motion carried. 13-0-0. A motion for approval was made by Albert Schmitt and seconded by Albert Kilb. Motion carried. 13-0-0.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Orłowski opened the meeting for public comments. There being none, the Chairman moved to the next item on the agenda.

OTHER BUSINESS

- January is open enrollment for ag district renewals
- Dale Moyer asked that Allan Connell be listed as an advisor to the Farmland Committee
- Ron Bush told the Committee that an article in the *East Hampton Star* said that people are using PDR land as lawns. He suggested that a deed restriction be placed on the property. It should only be sold to someone who has 50% of income from farming. Janet Longo suggested that the County Assessor's office change the assessments on farms that are no longer farmed. Tom Isles and Jenny Kohn will look into this.

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:20 P.M. Motion carried.

Next Meeting: January 22, 2008 at 12:00 NOON at the Arthur Kunz Memorial Library, H. Lee Dennison Bldg., 4th Fl., Hauppauge, NY