



Kent County Agriculture Preservation Board
Wednesday, February 3, 2021 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Zoom

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Dennis Heffron (Ag Interest), Suzie Reinbold (Real Estate Interest), Ed Robinette (Township Interest), Gretchen Mousel (Conservation Interest Representative), Dan Oesch (Ag Interest)

Absent: Matt Kallman (County Commissioner), Russ Slater (Ag Interest)

Staff: Jenny James, Matt Channing, MaryBeth VanTill

- I. Welcome and Introductions – Chair Heffron welcomed everyone to the meeting at 11:37 a.m.
- II. Approval of Minutes – A motion was made by Vice Chair Reinbold to approve the December 2020 minutes. Ed Robinette supported. UNANIMOUS
- III. There was no public comment.
- IV. ACEP Grant Application – Matt Channing informed the Agricultural Preservation Board that the federal Agricultural Conservation Easement Program grant was now open and that the top two applications were almost identical. Matt informed the Board that he would seek clarification on some questions that might distinguish the two applications. A motion was made by Ed Robinette to advise staff to pursue both applications until he was able to determine which had the most points and to advise the Board of his selection at the March 3rd meeting of the Agricultural Preservation Board. Gretchen Mousel supported. UNANIMOUS.
- V. PDR 2021 Selection Cycle – Matt informed the Agricultural Preservation Board that staff would come to the March 3rd meeting with the Selection Criteria for the Board to discuss, modify, and approve. This still allows staff time to present the Selection Criteria to the Legislative and Human Resources Committee.
- VI. Staff Report – Matt Channing reported that staff completed the Baseline document for the Sieracki property that accompanies the easement terms. Staff is working with the County Counsel's Office on the easement language. Matt also informed the Board that there is a new public body in the area, the Kent County Food Policy Council. This group has an interest in local food production, access, and consumption.

- VII.** Board Member Updates – Chair Heffron offered to the group that next meeting’s agenda allow for Board members to set goals and suggested that each Board member create a plan. Chair Heffron also reported out to the group on the success of Grattan Township’s farmland protection efforts through the Township’s PUD ordinance. The ordinance allows for developers to build at higher density by purchasing the development rights from a farm in the Township.
- VIII.** Adjournment – A motion was made by Vice Chair Reinbold to adjourn the meeting Ed Robinette supported. UNANIMOUS

The meeting was adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

11:30 a.m.to 1:00 p.m.

Kent County 3rd floor Rm 311