



Kent County Agriculture Preservation Board
Wednesday, January 12, 2022 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Kent County Administration Building – Room 310
Minutes prepared by
Matthew Channing, matthew.channing@kentcountymi.org

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Chair Dennis Heffron (Agricultural Representative), Vice Chair Suzie Reinbold (Real Estate Interest), Secretary/Treasurer Russ Slater (Agricultural Interest), Ed Robinette (Township Interest), Jessica Marks (Agricultural Interest)

Absent: Monica Sparks (County Commissioner)

Vacant: Conservation Interest

Staff: Paul Petr, Matt Channing

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Vice Chair Reinbold welcomed everyone to the meeting at 11:31 a.m. Two members of the public attended, Janelle Vandergrift of Kent County Food Policy Council (KCFPC) and Jerry Miller of Kent Conservation District (KCD).
- II. **Approval of the Agenda** – A motion as made by Ed Robinette to approve the January 12, 2022 Agenda. Vice Chair Reinbold supported. UNANIMOUS
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – A motion was made by Ed Robinette to approve the December 1, 2021 minutes. Jessica Marks supported. UNANIMOUS
- IV. **Public Comment on Agenda Items** – There was no public comment.
- V. **Agricultural Preservation Officer Elections** – Staff informed the Agricultural Preservation Board that at the first meeting of the year, the Board needed to vote in new officers.

Ed Robinette nominated Denny Heffron as Chair. Suzie Reinbold supported. UNANIMOUS
Ed Robinette nominated Suzie Reinbold as Vice Chair. Russ Slater supported. UNANIMOUS
Ed Robinette nominated Russ Slater as Secretary. Suzie Reinbold Supported. UNANIMOUS
- VI. **USDA ACEP Grant** – Staff requested the Board approve recommending applying to the USDA Agricultural Conservation Easement Program grant for 2022 with the Gerald Kingsbury

application from the County's Purchase of Development Rights Program. Ed Robinette moved the recommendation. Suzie Reinbold supported. UNANIMOUS

- VII. Purchase of Development Rights Signs** – Staff presented three drafts of signs for properties preserved through the Kent County Purchase of Development Rights program. Board members generally liked signs labeled 7 and 9.
- VIII. Agricultural Preservation Board Calendar 2022** – Staff reviewed the calendar, approved in December, with the Board for important dates and votes and Board member vacations. Staff reminded the Board that since this since the calendar is shifted this year, certain PDR items won't be happening until next year.
- IX. Agricultural Preservation Board Newsletter** – Staff circulated the copy content for the Spring 2022 newsletter. Board members are welcome to suggest content to add as well. Staff requested for Board members to circulate the newsletter amongst their networks, as well. Denny asked for volunteers to help him build networks with businesses. Russ Slater volunteered.
- X. Staff Update** – Staff gave several updates to the Agricultural Preservation Board including attending the Great Lakes Fruit and Vegetable, Quadrant meetings throughout the County, and the creation of the Office of Rural Development within the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.
- XI. General Public Comment** – Janelle Vandergrift introduced her organization and expressed interest in how the Agricultural Preservation Board can work with the KCFPC. Jerry Miller commented that his organization hoped to tap into ARPA funds. He informed the Board that the KCD Annual Meeting and Officer Elections are on May 24, 2022 and are open to the public. He also requested to staff to add the Annual Meeting to the new newsletter.
- XII. Board Member Updates** – Ed Robinette shared an article regarding the success of preservation efforts in Traverse County and how crucial public support is to their efforts.
- XIII. Adjournment** – A motion as made by Ed Robinette to adjourn until next meeting. Vice Chair Reinbold supported. UNANIMOUS

The meeting was adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

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

Kent County 3rd floor Rm 311