

Unapproved Minutes
Kent County Agricultural Preservation Board
October 2, 2013

Location: MSU Extension Office

Members Present: Gabe Hudson (Ag Interest), Michele VanHouten (Conservation Interest), Denny Heffron (Ag Interest), Suzie Reinbold (Real Estate Interest) and Tom Antor (County Commissioner)

Members Absent: Carl Blough (Ag Interest), Ed Robinette (Township Interest)

Staff Present: Stacy Byers, Board Coordinator

Meeting began at 11:38am.

- I. Welcome: Gabe Hudson, Chair.**
- II. Public Comment: None.**
- III. Review Agenda and Declaration of Any Possible Conflict of Interest.** None was declared.
- IV. Review and Adoption of October 2, 2013 Minutes.** – VanHouten made several suggestions to the Outreach and Promotional Material section of last months’ minutes. Byers will incorporate them into the file. **Motion by VanHouten seconded by Antor to adopt October 2, 2013 minutes. Motion passed.**
- V. Old Business**
 - a. Status of pending properties, Frost, VanOeffelen, Heffron** - Byers gave a brief update as to her progress on the due diligence with each property. The Frost property is close to being ready to close, pending signatures from Huntington Bank and technical review of the CE by FRPP. The VanOeffelen Property is waiting for subordination agreements to come back from Green Stone Farm Credit. And the Heffron Farm is pending via approval from the BOC to accept Mr. Heffron’s donation. Byers is hopeful all should close by the end of the year, if not in early January 2014.
 - b. County Budget** – Byers updated the group on the Ag Board’s budget for purposes of ensuring sufficient funds to close the Heffron donation. She met with Finance last week and confirmed there is enough to cover the County’s portion of the closing cost and due diligence requirements.
 - c. LCV Educational Campaign** – Byers reported that she will be meeting with Wege, Frey and LCV representatives to discuss an educational campaign on the big picture of farmland preservation in Kent County. She will keep the Board posted as more information becomes available.

VI. New Business

- a.** *Wege Grant Proposal* – Byers reported that the Wege Grant Cycle was underway with a deadline of October 10, 2013. She met with Mrs. McCarthy, representative of the Wege Foundation to discuss a 2014 proposal. There was discussion from the Ag Board as to what properties to submit for funding in 2014. The Board suggested sending the Roth, Weeks, Malone and Hefferan properties for consideration.

VII. Other

- a.** Chair Hudson shared that he had spoke with Marcia Rapp from the Grand Rapids Community Foundation. He conveyed the Boards' appreciation for the generous support the Foundation has provided to the Ag Board and was hopeful we could work together again in the future, if/ when more funding becomes available.
- b.** Mr. Heffron made a point of recognizing VanHouten for her articles and dedication to spreading the word about farmland preservation. She is reaching new audiences and her efforts are exactly what the Board needs right now. "Keep up the good work Michele." D. Heffron.

VIII. Public Comment – None was heard

- IX.** Adjournment – **Motion by Reinhold, seconded by Hudson to adjourn. Motion passed.**

Next Meeting: *November 6, 2013 at 11:30 at Kent/MSU Extension*