

Kent County Agricultural Preservation Board Meeting
June 1, 2016
Kent/MSU Extension
11:30 AM

Members Present: Candace Chivis (County Commissioner). Dennis Heffron (Ag Interest), Ed Robinette (Township Interest) and Russ Slater (Ag Interest)

Members Absent: Carl Blough (Ag Interest), Suzie Reinbold (Real Estate Interest) and Michele Van Houten (Conservation Interest)

Staff Present: Stacy Byers (Board Coordinator) and Debbie Green (Kent/MSU Extension)

Staff Absent: Nathan Kark (Administrator's Office)

- I. Welcome and Call to Order** – Meeting was called to order at 11:47 a.m. by Chairman Denny Heffron
- II. Public Comment** - None
- III. Review Agenda and Declaration of Any Possible Conflict of Interest** - None
- IV. Review and Adoption of May 4, 2016 Minutes** – Ed made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from May 4, 2016. Candace seconded the motion and the motion passed.
- V. Old Business**
 - a. Bradford – The question was asked of the American Farmland Trust if they would hold the funds for preserving the Bradford farm until June of 2017. The contact at the AFT office, Bob retired on May 17. A person has been hired to replace him, however they have not replied to the funds request.
 - b. Malone a, b update – A closing date of July 6 has been set for this property.
 - c. Hefferan Property update – We have been waiting on the True Line Company to go out to the property and do the survey, however they have not completed it after two weeks. A new company was hired, Rosseen's and their charge is \$1,800.
- VI. New Business**
 - a. 2016 Application Cycle
 - i. May 1 – July 31, 2016 – Stacy said that she received about 10-15 phone calls from farmers asking to receive application packets for the 2016 application cycle. Currently there are about 30 properties (10-15 new applicants/15 renewals) in line to be preserved.

- b. Aquinas College Research Project
 - i. Mary Clinthorne – Mary is working with a graduate student for approximately 10 weeks this summer to work on mapping land use changes from 1960 to present. She is also working with the Metro Council on this project.

VII. Other

a. Heart of Lakes Spring Summit

Thursday, May 19, 2016 – This was a really good summit according to Stacy and Russ who attended. A contact was made with Ducks Unlimited that could ultimately help Mary Clinthorne with her project.

This summit discussed working the National Young Farmer Group and option agreements for farmers who want to retire. They want to find young farmers and help them purchase the property to keep the farm in production and not let the land go to fallow.

VIII. Public Comment - None

- IX. Adjournment** – Candace made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ed seconded the motion and the motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Next Meeting is July 6, 2016 at 11:30 a.m. at the Kent/MSU Extension office