



Kent County Agriculture Preservation Board
Wednesday, May 6, 2020 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Meeting hosted via Zoom

Approved Minutes

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

Absent: Matt Kallman (County Commissioner)

Staff: Matt Channing, MB Vantill, Jenn Headrick

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Suzie Reinbold welcomed everyone to the meeting at 11:35 a.m.
- II. **Review of Agenda** – A motion was made by Russ Slater to approve the May 2020 agenda. Suzie Reinbold. The agenda was approved by consensus.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – A motion was made by Russ Slater to approve the May 2020 agenda. Suzie Reinbold supported. UNANIMOUS
- IV. **PDR 2020 Selection Cycle** – Matt Channing gave an update on the PDR 2020 cycle. He noted that applicants may have difficulty completing the application in the previously allotted timeframe due to many public servants working from home. To compensate for this difficulty, Matt suggested the deadline could be extended to August 31. Russ Slater recommended that Matt look into that.
- V. **Staff Report** – Matt Channing informed the group that there has not yet been an update regarding the status of the ACEP-ALE 2020 grant. Brian Thomas at USDA transmitted documents that will need to be reviewed by applicants awarded grant funds. Matt presented the current Agricultural Preservation budget. There is currently \$8,005 available for discretionary use. Regarding the Sieracki property, Matt informed the group he wanted to finalize it this year. Closing the property would require subordinating the mortgage to the conservation easement and obtaining an additional \$18,000.
- VI. **PDR Violations** – County Staff identified a potential solution to the violation that requires reuniting the properties that were split.

VII. Board Member Updates

- a. Denny Heffron provided an update to the Board regarding the Purchase of Development Rights millage on the ballot in Grattan Township in August. Additionally, Denny Heffron informed the Board that Grattan Township might have funds available to secure the \$18,000 funding needed for the Sieracki property.
- b. Gretch Mousel suggested Matt Channing should reach out to the Land Conservancy of West Michigan for assistance with mortgage subordination.
- c. Russ Slater advised Matt to speak with officials at Grattan Township to identify what has been billed to them in regard to the Sieracki conservation easement.

A motion was made by Gretch Mousel to adjourn. Ed Robinette supported. UNANIMOUS

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

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, June 3, 2020
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Kent County 3rd floor Rm 311