



Kent County Agriculture Preservation Board
Wednesday, September 2, 2020 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Meeting hosted via Zoom

DRAFT Minutes

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

Absent: Dan Oesch (Ag Interest), Matt Kallman (County Commissioner)

Staff: Matt Channing, MaryBeth VanTill, Jenn Headrick

- I. Welcome and Introductions – Dennis Heffron welcomed everyone to the meeting at 11:33 a.m.
- II. Approval of Minutes - A motion was made by Ed Robinette to approve the August 2020 minutes. Suzie Reinbold supported. UNANIMOUS
- III. There was no public comment.
- IV. PDR 2020 Selection Cycle – Matt Channing reported out that the 2020 cycle of the Purchase of Development Rights program had closed. There were two new applications and five requests for renewal. With Elliot Lowe from GIS, Matt will begin scoring the new applications. Dennis Heffron raised the possibility of extending the deadlines further. Because of the time it takes to score new applications and the deadline for the state grant, Matt did not recommend extending the time for new applications but said that because renewals were already scored, the deadline could be extended for them without much inconvenience. Jenn Headrick advised Matt to confirm with Corporate Counsel that extending the deadline was permissible. The board agreed that if Counsel determined the action was permissible, they would support an extension of the deadline to submit renewals to such a date as selected by staff.
- V. ACEP 2020 – Matt Channing informed the board that the Board of Commissioners, at the August 27 meeting, approved the recommendation to accept the grant From USDA NRCS for the Kruithoff farm. Matt will be pursuing the remaining balance of the cost of the conservation easement through grants from the State of Michigan and various foundations in the region.
- VI. Staff Report – Matt Channing confirmed that the Wege Foundation has transferred their portion of the funds to purchase the conservation easement. The mortgage lender to the Sieracki family confirmed support for subordinating the mortgage to the conservation easement and Matt send

them the subordination form to complete. Matt continues to complete the minimum deed terms for the conservation easement to be sent to USDA NRCS. Mat also related to the board that staff continue to meet with Progressive AE regarding the potential for a TDR program in the county and that a report to the board may be possible.

VII. Board Member Updates – There were no updates.

VIII. Adjournment – A motion was made by Russ Slater to adjourn the meeting. Suzie Reinbold supported. UNANIMOUS

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, October 7, 2020

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

Kent County 3rd floor Rm 311