

FARMLAND PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 17, 2011

County Administrative Building – Room 3220 – 3rd Floor

4:00 PM – 5:10 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tina Wehrs; Marilyn Pedretti; Deena Murphy; Keith Valiquette; Don Bina; Mike Dummer; Ilona Hansen

MEMBERS EXCUSED: John Lautz; Mike Weibel

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF & GUESTS: Charles Handy

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL 4:00 PM by Chair – Tina Wehrs

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM January 11, 2011 MEETING.

Motion Bina/Pedretti to approve minutes

7 aye – 0 no – 2 excused (Lautz, Weibel)

REPORT ON UPCOMING MARCH 21ST PACE COUNCIL MEETING

Charlie Handy reported that the State PACE Council Meeting was postponed.

BUDGET PROPOSAL

- Has not been approved – the removal of PACE and the conversion fees are in the Budget Bill that hasn't been passed.
- There are a couple of other Bills / Legislation proposed which remove the conversion fees from the State Budget & then in turn get rid of the PACE Program. Likely-hood of one of these proposals passing is high.
- Charlie will monitor PACE activity with DATCP staff.
- Discussion on keeping Conversion Fees in house and using for a local PACE Grant.
- Discussion on sending letter in support or opposition of Conversion Fees being removed from the budget.

REPORT ON PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS OF MARCH 14TH, 15TH, AND 16TH.

March 14th – Hamilton – 2 attended; March 15th – St Joe's Ridge – 10 attended; March 16th – 1 attended, as you can see, Very poor attendance. The following were results from these meetings:

Goal setting activity:

- Control water coming off hills
- More money spent on conservation practices wanted to pay for hay crops and buffer strips so there was less runoff
- Town of Bangor wanted to keep its rural character
- Improve profitability of small family farms
- Greenfield considers itself a buffer town between development and Agriculture want to allow development of those areas planned for development, and for us to respect local planning efforts.

FINALIZING GOALS AND CRITERIA FOR FARMLAND PRESERVATION PLAN

Discussion on handout "Goals for Farmland Preservation Plan"

Goals were discussed, will be e-mailed for committee to react to prior to the next meeting.

Discussion on handout -"Criteria for Mapping Farmland Preservation Areas"

Difference between Criteria and Goals is that Criteria is for geography of the map and Goals are for drafting documents. Significant Discussion on these criteria, if there needs to be more, if these are sufficient.

Motion Pedretti/Valiquette to adopt criteria for mapping Farmland Preservation.

7 Aye, 0 No, 2 Excused (Lautz, Weibel)

Motion Hansen/Dummer to adjourn at 5:10 PM.

7 aye – 0 no – 2 excused (Lautz, Weibel)

*The above minutes may be approved, amended, or corrected at the next committee meeting
Charles Handy, Recorder*