

**MINUTES OF THE SUFFOLK COUNTY FARMLAND COMMITTEE**  
**Suffolk County Planning Department**

**Date:** April 25, 2006

**Members Present:** Bennett Orłowski, Jr. (At-Large), Chairman  
Thomas A. Isles, Suffolk County Dept. of Planning Director (At-Large)  
Nate Corwin (At-Large)  
Lee Foster (Southampton)  
Albert Schmitt (At-Large)  
Olney M. Gardiner (East Hampton)  
Joseph Krukowski (Southold)  
Ronald Bush (At-Large)  
Charlie Scheer (At-Large)  
Mark Zaweski (At-Large)

**County Staff Present:** Robert Zaher, Suffolk County Div. of Real Estate  
Fedelem, Suffolk County Dept. of Planning  
Jenny Kohn, Suffolk County Department of Law

**Guests:** Joe Gergela, L.I. Farm Bureau  
Dan O'Neil  
Thomas Williams  
Pat Hubbard  
William Sanok  
Denise Markut  
Dale Moyer, N.R.C.S.  
Pat Quick  
Irene Detmer  
Melissa Spiro, Southold Land Preservation  
Heather Lanza  
George Tuelis  
Peter Garnham  
John A. Malafronte  
Lauren Jarrett  
Tom Jurgielewicz

**Members Absent:** Elmer Zeh (Brookhaven)  
Russell Barnett (Smithtown)  
Dan Fricke (At-Large)  
Eugene Murphy (Islip)  
Alfred J. Kilb, Jr. (Shelter Island)

Chairman Orłowski, called the meeting of the Suffolk County Farmland Committee to order at 6:00 p.m. but a quorum was not reached until 7:30 p.m. at the H. Lee Dennison Building, Hauppauge, NY.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairman Orlowski opened the meeting for public comments. There being none, the Chairman moved to the next item on the agenda.

No business was conducted until a quorum was reached. A general discussion followed including a discussion about the County Farm, horse shows, wind turbines, the need for fencing, breeding of cattle, irrigation and the processing of meat. Charlie Scheer suggested the County Farm work with NRCS on water problems. The County Farm is not under the same set of rules as properties that have sold their development rights.

Lauren Jarrett gave an update on Ecco Farm such as deer fencing, hoop house structures and upcoming events (similar to a Country Fair) and problems with parking (possibly using the High School). Joe Gergela told the Committee that they should have a policy regarding such events in the future. Tom Isles requested that Roy Fedelem work on a policy for events. Jenny Kohn questioned the revenue collected and where it will go. Fundraisers should be incidental to farm use; for charities and non-profits, not for individuals.

Chairman Orlowski spoke to the Committee about the importance of attending the meetings and the fact that it is getting harder and harder to reach a quorum.

### QUORUM ACHIEVED AT 7:30 WITH ARRIVAL OF JOSEPH KRUKOWSKI

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A motion was put forth by Lee Foster and seconded by Charles Scheer to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2006 meeting of the Farmland Committee. Motion carried. 10-0-0.**

## **ECCO FARM EVENT**

**A motion for a SEQRA determination Type II Action was made by Thomas Isles and seconded by Lee Foster. Motion carried. 10-0-0. A motion for approval of the ECCO Farm event subject to East Hampton Town's requirements for one event up to two (2) days (to be held on September 9 & 10, 2006) was made by Olney Gardiner and seconded by Lee Foster. Motion carried 10-0-0.**

## **DETMER FARM**

Dan O'Neil, co-tenant with Norman Keil, spoke to the Committee updating the changes requested by the Farmland Committee at its January 24, 2006 meeting. He currently has 900 feet of greenhouses across the street, (he does not expect to build more greenhouses) and Norman Keil is growing approximately 125,000 perennials, some of which are to be sold at the farm stand. The tables (food service not allowed) were removed as requested by the Farmland Committee at its previous meeting.

Thomas Isles gave an overview of the existing problems, bringing it up to the present.

Mr. O'Neil told the Committee that he would like to build a "community involved" park (on 2% of the land) with a "mini" community garden of vegetables, sitting area, etc.

Joe Gergela felt that this might set precedence and the Farmland Committee should get some guidance in setting policies. Mr. Gergela and Lee Foster felt the Committee should have an Executive Session to discuss policies. There was also a discussion on the 80/20 rule. Nate Corwin felt the Ag & Markets law should be changes to 80% grown on Long Island rather than on premises.

A special meeting will be set up in 6-8 weeks to discuss the issues of annual events and the playground/park will be held in abeyance until the Committee can discuss a policy. **A motion to table was made by Charles Scheer and seconded by Mark Zaweski. Motion carried. 10-0-0.**

#### **KUJAWSKI - MIXING SHEDS**

No information was received so no approval was made

#### **PECONIC LAND TRUST - FENCE, RUN-IN SHED AND WELL (former Reeves Farm)**

Denise Markut spoke to the Committee requesting a 4 ft. high fence, a run-in shed in the southeast corner (12' x 40' pole building), a new well, 12 to 20 horses (free ranging) and a storage shed (12' x 20'). A site plan showing exactly where the buildings are to be located will be necessary before a decision can be made. **A motion for a SEQRA determination Type II Action was made by Nate Corwin and seconded by Mark Zaweski. Motion carried. 10-0-0. A motion for approval of the 4 ft. electric fence was made by Nate Corwin and seconded by Mark Zaweski. Motion carried. 10-0-0.**

#### **NEW PARCELS FOR CONSIDERATION FOR PDR**

Glover, Kenneth - 34.6 acres in Yaphank used for vegetables, scored 12 by the Committee. **A motion for approval was made by Lee Foster and seconded by Ron Bush. Motion carried 10-0-0.**

Jurgielewicz - Three (3) parcels in Moriches consisting of 35.7, 3.5 and 7.7 acres being used for ducks, scored 8 by the Committee. **A motion for approval was made by Ron Bush and seconded by Albert Schmitt. Motion carried. 10-0-0.**

Cuomo Farm - 32.6 acres in East Moriches used for vegetables, scored 9 by the Committee. **A motion for approval was made by Albert Schmitt and seconded by Olney Gardiner. Motion carried. 10-0-0.**

Healing Hands - Three (3) parcels in Manorville used for horses, consisting of 4.1, 3.5 and 4.2 acres scored 5 by the Committee. **A motion for approval was made by Ron Bush and seconded by Joe Krukowski. Motion carried. 10-0-0.**

Pat Quick - 8.4 acres in E. Patchogue scored 3 by the Committee. **A motion for denial was made by Lee Foster and seconded by Charles Scheer. Motion carried. 10-0-0.**

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

The question arose as to whether or not the County would accept "bargain sales". Tom Isles told the Committee that the County has signed off on them.

**A motion to adjourn was made.**

**Next Meeting: July 25, 2006 at 6:00 P.M. at the L.I. Horticulture Research & Extension Center, Riverhead, NY**