

Farmland Preservation Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
June 2, 2016
10:00 am
Department of Agriculture
Room G8A
165 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Jim Zioli, John Guskowski, George Malia(left at 11:20am), Joan Nichols, Joe Bonelli, Henry Talmage, Lucy Nolan, Ben Freund

MEMBERS ABSENT: George Hindinger, Jim Krissel, Terry Jones, Robin Chesmer

AGENCY STAFF PRESENT: Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky, Chief of Staff George E. Krivda, Jr., Bureau Director Linda Piotrowicz, Jason Bowsza

- 1) CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Zioli called the meeting to order at 10:12am
- 2) REVIEW OF December 3, 2015 Minutes
 - a. Guskowski moved, seconded by Nolan, to accept the minutes of the December 3 meeting with corrections. **UNANIMOUS**
- 3) OLD BUSINESS
 - a. Commissioner's updates
 - i. Commissioner Reviczky reviewed that state budget situation and its impact on the department as a whole. He also outlined the considerable efforts of DoAg relative to the Produce Safety Rule under the Food Safety Modernization Act.
 - b. Farmland Preservation Update
 - i. Commissioner Reviczky gave an update on active projects in the farmland preservation unit. Mr. Malia discussed issues and disincentives associated with PDR projects that partner with NRCS, due to over regulation on the part of the federal government.
 - c. State Owned Farmland Update
 - i. Commissioner Reviczky updated board members on the use agreements in place at Southbury Training School. He announced that there is now an executed MOA transferring care, custody and control of 900 acres at Southbury Training School from the Department of Developmental Services to the Department of Agriculture.
- 4) NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Discussion of potential field site visit
 - i. Chairman Zioli would like to consider doing a future meeting in the field. The board discussed holding the September meeting at or around Freund's Farm.
 - b. John Guskowski report
 - i. Mr. Guskowski noted that in the year since he started his report, there has been considerable improvement within DoAg's program. He distributed a draft

resolution recommitting the Farmland Preservation Advisory Board to advise the commissioner of potential efficiencies. Mr. Freund moves to accept the draft resolution, seconded by Ms. Nolan. Mr. Freund, seconded by Ms. Nolan, moved to postpone the acceptance of the resolution until the September meeting. Motion to postpone passes **unanimously**.

- c. Ms. Nolan reported on USDA efforts to promote Farm to School activities pertaining to summer meals programs.
 - d. Chairman Zioli asked about tenant status at the Hartford Regional Market.
- 5) ADJOURNMENT
- a. Chairman Zioli adjourned the meeting at 12:15pm

Respectfully submitted,

Jason E. Bowsza
Office of the Commissioner