

# JOINT HOLLIS CONSERVATION & AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONS WORKING GROUP

Minutes of Meeting

February 26, 2018

Approved March 16, 2018

Present: Dan Harmon, Mark Post (telephonically), Agricultural Commission;  
Jonathan Bruneau, Cheryl Quaine, Conservation Commission  
Connie Cain, Staff

Meeting was called to order at 1:02 pm.

## **SIERGIEWICZ AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION PRESENTATION**

M. Post went over the draft Agricultural Commission presentation for the Board of Selectmen (BOS) meeting on February 26, 2018. Stefanowicz Farm and Woodmont West given as alternates. Woodmont West is not a viable option, using any portion for recreational fields would violate the terms of the conservation easement, which states that Woodmont West can only be used as agricultural land in perpetuity, with passive recreation that does not interfere with the agricultural activities on the property. The agricultural lease also does not allow recreational uses. The former Farm and Ranchland Protection Program of the USDA, now Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) funded a portion of the purchase via a grant, which would have to be repaid. Additionally, the current lessee would be entitled to a refund of monies invested in the property. Attempting to remove the current agricultural lease would be expensive and have a tremendous impact to taxpayers.

Construction of playing fields on Stefanowicz Farm is highlighted, and was created on the potential ramifications to the agricultural lease area and construction of the proposed recreational playing fields to the property, with key points being:

- 1.) Construction of recreational fields on the property would not be in keeping with the surrounding agricultural properties.
- 2.) Erosion and application of pesticides and fertilizers would be more harmful on this property than on Siergiewicz due to drainage issues.
- 3.) Along with having land not in production or managed to its best use, the cost to build the recreational fields would be significantly more on this property than on Siergiewicz.
- 4.) The 2017 Food Safety and Modernization Act severely limits the human and animal activities near and around agricultural land. These regulations will significantly reduce the amount of land available for agricultural use if the recreation fields are placed on Stefanowicz Farm.

Other possible impacts of having the recreation fields on this property could be violations of the Town Rural Character Ordinance. The impact to Nartoff Road would have a huge impact, Nartoff Road itself was not built to handle the amount of traffic that the new playing fields would bring; there are no shoulders on the road and passing will be an issue. J. Bruneau felt that the road grade and the road itself will likely need to be engineering to bring it up to standards. This could potentially be a very expensive item that has not been considered.

The Siergiewicz purchase has no direct impact to the agricultural properties in Town, so the Agricultural Commission has not taken a stance on the purchase. However, the Stefanowicz Farm potential use as playing fields does have an impact, and the Agricultural Commission is against the construction of the playing fields on Stefanowicz Farm. M. Post will be presenting at Town Meeting.

Some discussion occurred of the presentation given by the property owners against the Siergiewicz Field purchase to the Conservation Commission, M. Post and J. Bruneau were present. They did not feel that the presentation was based on facts, but on suppositions. A traffic study is necessary, but other items brought up were not based on actual playing field use. All information to be used in the Agricultural Commission presentation is available on the Town's website.

## **NON-PUBLIC SESSION**

M. Post made the motion to enter into non-public session, seconded by D. Harmon, in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II (d); all in favor, none opposed and the Workgroup entered into non-public session at 1:22 pm.

## **RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION**

M. Post motioned to return to public session and to keep the minutes sealed under RSA 91-A:3, III; seconded by C. Quaine. All members in favor, none opposed. The motion to return to public session carried 4-0-0, the minutes were sealed, and the work group returned to public session at 2:10 pm.

M. Post clarified tasks; he will insert discussed language into the RFP. Someone will need to make markups to the map as discussed, J. Bruneau will make markups. D. Harmon and J. Bruneau will verify boundaries. Once draft map is

62 complete, J. Bruneau will distribute. Other lease items will be further discussed at the next meeting. C. Quaine asked  
63 about who keeps timber harvest revenues; M. Post stated that unless covered by lease or contract, revenues are kept  
64 by Town. Discussion of draft RFP document; M. Post will call Kim Galipeau, Town Administrator, to place the  
65 workgroup on the BOS agenda for March 26, 2018. The next Workgroup meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 16,  
66 2018 at 2:00 pm in the Community Room.

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68 **MINUTES**

69 D. Harmon motioned to accept the minutes of the public meeting of January 25, 2018 as written, seconded by J.  
70 Bruneau. All members in favor, none opposed, and the minutes were approved 4-0-0.

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72 D. Harmon motioned to accept the minutes of the non-public meeting of January 25, 2018 as revised and keep sealed  
73 under RSA 91-A:3, III, seconded by J. Bruneau. All members in favor, none opposed, and the minutes were approved  
74 4-0-0.

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76 **ADJOURNMENT**

77 J. Bruneau motioned to adjourn the meeting; seconded by D. Harmon. All members in favor, none opposed; the motion  
78 carried and the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm.

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80 Respectfully submitted,

81 Connie Cain

82 Staff