

Minutes: Dummerston Farmland Protection Committee meeting

January 3, 2017 from 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm.

Present: Jack Manix (Chair), Diana Lischer-Goodband, Vern Grubinger, Nelson Jillson. Absent: Read Miller, Elizabeth Wood.

1. The committee discussed the application for \$15,000 from the Farmland Protection Fund to assist with purchase of development rights on 59 acres of farmland at the former Moore Farm owned by Michael Barrett of EZ Moo Acres, LLC. Nelson requested that the word "all" be removed from the application on page one of the application, in the sentence that reads "Stoneholm Farm is in the process of consolidating ALL its operations in VT leaving behind operation in Walpole NH." Vern will check with Joan Weir of the Vermont Land Trust to see if there is any problem with this proposed change.

The committee voted all in favor of recommending the application, as modified, be approved by the Selectboard. Elizabeth Wood had indicated her support for the application via email. Vern will draft a letter to the Selectboard for Jack and Diana to review before they attend Selectboard meeting on January 18 to present the committee's recommendation.

The committee also discussed the possibility of reducing the \$15,000 request and concluded that this would not be appropriate, given that the Town was being asked to contribute a relatively small portion of the total project, and that the project aimed to conserve one the most productive pieces of farmland in the Town.

2. The committee discussed strategies to apply for grants to support the Farmland Protection Fund.
3. The committee discussed the challenges of raising backyard chickens.

Respectfully submitted, Vern Grubinger.