

MINUTES

Farmland Protection Program Durham Soil and Water Conservation District

Agricultural Building
1721 Foster St Durham, NC 27701

Meeting Number: 4 (Farmland Advisory Board) Date: June 15, 2017

Advisory Board Present:

Neil Frank- Chairman
Will Wilson- Vice Chair
Kathryn Spann- 2nd Vice Chair/Durham SWCD Rep.
David Heeks- At Large
Douglas Daye- Flat River VAD
Perry Whitted- Open Space Representative
Neal Curran- Business Representative
John Monroe, At Large

Others Present:

Eddie Culberson- Soil & Water
Lisa Marochak- Soil & Water
Mike Dupree- Soil & Water
Jennifer Brooks- Soil & Water
Jane Korest-Open Space
Deborah McGiffin- Cooperative Extension
Elizabeth Zander- Piedmont Conservation Council

The regular monthly meeting of the Farmland Protection Advisory Board was held on Thursday, June 15, 2017 and called to order at 8:06am by the Chairman. The meeting was held at 721 Foster St, Durham, NC 27701.

- 1. Minutes** – A motion was made by Will Wilson to approve the minutes for April 2017. John Monroe seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
- 2. Board Attendance**
 - Lisa Marochak notified the board of an appointment that was made to the Farmland Board. Per the Farmland Board ordinance the Farmland Board is the only ones that are allowed to appoint members to “At Large” positions. Kathryn Spann is going to draft a letter to send to the BOCC.
 - A motion was made by Kathryn Spann to remove Demetrius Thompson from the board for non-attendance. John Monroe seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent. Lisa Marochak will ask for the position to be advertised as
 - Perry Whitted announced that his term will end on June 30, 2017. Open Space is working to find a replacement to serve as the Open Space Representative.
- 3. Budget-** Lisa Marochak gave an update on the remaining balance for the Farmland Board.
 - **Donation to Neal Middle School FFA-** Mike Dupree reported that Kamal Bell, the Ag Teacher from Lowes Grove Middle is being moved to Neal Middle School. He has sent an email requesting support for the new FFA program that will be starting in August. A motion was made by Perry Whitted to donate \$500 to support the Neal Middle School FFA Program. The Neal Middle School FFA Program will be required to give a formal report to the board on how the funds were used. David Heeks seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
- 4. VAD Renewal** – A motion was made by Kathryn Spann to approve the VAD application for Francis Gail Tremmel & Ricky Tremmel. The application is for 70.83 acres on Chambers Rd. David Heeks seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.

5. Easements- Jane Korest reported on the following:

- Starting work on the four projects that were approved last year by the Feds.
- 2017 Applications that were submitted- getting Federal forms in.
- Still waiting on clearance to close on Mr. Daye's Farm. May be able to close in August.

6. Ag Economic Development Coordinator update- Mike Dupree reported on the following:

- **NACD Grant** - June 29th is the last training in the series. It will be rain garden training held at Northern High School from 9am to 1pm, lunch will be provided.
- **Detention Facility-** the County Manager is recommending a \$20,000 grant to Farmer Food Share for the supplemental purchasing of food for the detention facility. The funds will likely be available for purchasing of product in July.
- **Small Grant Program-** the County Manager is recommending the \$25,000 Small Farmers grant Soil and Water requested for FY18 budget. If passed an application process, ranking form and review committee will be established to implement the program.
- **BETC Project 2017**
Teachers and students will work for 6 weeks, 30 hours per week, Monday to Thursday from 7am to 3pm. They will supervise 21 student interns

7. Durham Roots Farmers Market update- John Monroe reported the following:

- Lost 1 vender
- 2 new vendors are joining the market in July
- Starting to do educational presentations twice a month

8. DFFN update- Neal Curran reported on the following:

- DFFN will hold a potluck on June 27th in the Cooperative Extension food lab.
- Received funding from Burts Bees to do Policy Advocacy stuff.
- Food & More (Plant a row dinner) will be held on June 27.

9. Incubator Farm Subcommittee update: John Monroe reported on the following:

- Gave an update on what the subcommittee has been doing.
- Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 19th.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Subcommittee for Farmland Plan/retreat planning-** Lisa Marochak will send out a doodle poll to the subcommittee (Kathryn Spann, Nicole Connelly, Neal Curran, and Mike Dupree). Morris White and Patrick Young will be invited to the retreat.

Next Meeting– August 17, 2017 at 721 Foster St, Durham, NC 27701 (second floor conference room)

Adjourn – With no further discussion or business, Chairman, Neil Frank adjourned the meeting at 9:47a.m.

Neil Frank
Chair

Will Wilson
Vice Chair

Date approved