

FPAB December Meeting
Thursday, December 16, 2021

DRAFT Meeting Minutes (taken by Holly Lalime)

FPAB Members Present: Robin Chesmer (Chair), Jiff Martin (Vice Chair), Robert Chang, Jason White, Ben Freund, Terry Jones, Will O'Meara, Joann Nichols, Elisabeth Moore, John Hall

FPAB Members Absent: Ellie Angerame

CT Dept. of Agriculture: Jaime Smith, Cam Weimar, Holly Lalime

Others Present: Chelsea Gazillo (Working Lands Alliance)

Robin called the meeting to order at 9:02AM.

Robin called a motion to add two items to the agenda under "Old Business" 1) Farmland Preservation Program report for Cam. 2) OPAV. Jiff seconded the motion. Board voted in favor. Motion passed.

Joan Nichols presented today's inspirational message.

Old Business:

Approval of August 26th meeting minutes – Robin requested a change to the second to last statement in the minutes. He requested that the minutes be changed to reflect that no additional meeting was requested. Rather, the board decided to take up community farms preservation regulations at the next regularly scheduled meeting. Joan Nichols made a motion to approve the minutes. Ben seconded the motion. The board voted in favor. Motion passed.

Approval of October 21st meeting minute – Make sure the letter re: OPAV to the Commissioner is on the minutes. Jiff Martin made a motion to approve the minutes. Joan seconded. Board voted in favor. Motion passed.

December Farmland Preservation Programs Report – presented by Cam Weimar.

OPAV - The board sent another letter to the Commissioner on September 28th. The board received an acknowledgement from the Commissioner but no official response.

Agricultural lands regulation review – The board believes it's beneficial and productive to allow the board to see the regulations with all of their comments incorporated before they go to OPM and public hearing. Jaime let the board know that FPAB members may still submit feedback on the regulations until the end of 2022.

New Business:

2022 Topics/Priorities

Joan Nichols made a motion for the board to accept the following list of priorities.

1. The option the purchase at agricultural value (OPAV)
2. Buy, Protect, Sell (BPS)

3. Expediting the PDR process
4. New tools for farmland protection
5. PDR stewardship and general outreach
6. Urban agriculture issues (demographics and data, or other issues as they evolve over the 2022 calendar year)

Terry Jones seconded the motion. The board voted in favor. The motion passed.

Discuss meeting schedule for 2022

Joan made a motion to approve the following meeting schedule:

- January 20th
- February 17th
- March 17th
- May 19th
- July 21st
- September 15th
- November 17th

Terry Jones seconded the motion. The board voted in favor. The 2022 meeting schedule passed.

Robin Chesmer made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:59.