

Farmland Lease Committee

Special Meeting May 2, 2024
Basement Conference Room
Town Hall, 45 South Main St., Wallingford, CT

MINUTES

Committee Chair Saunders convened the Meeting at 5:06 p.m.

- 1. Roll Call - Present:** Committee Chair Dianne Saunders; Mike Miller; Bruce Conroy (new member of FLP Committee); and Erin O'Hare, Environmental Planner.
- 2. Revised Farmland Lease Program Spreadsheet:** Erin had updated the spreadsheet after the January 2024 lease awards. She provided copies of the revised spreadsheet for all fields and asked that people review it and inform her of any errors.
- 3. Committee assignments:** Dianne provided a list of all the fields, per lessee, using an excerpt from the FLP spreadsheet. After brief discussion, monitoring assignments were revised as follows:
 - Cecarelli Farms – Dianne Saunders
 - 3B Ranch – Mike Miller
 - JELL, LLC – Bruce Conroy
 - Johnson Family Farm – Dianne Saunders
 - J&J Brothers, LLC – Bruce Conroy
 - Kondracki Farm – Mike Miller
 - Colleen Augur – Bruce Conroy
 - Williams Farm – Bruce Conroy
 - Kranyak Farm – Dianne Saunders
- 4. Revised Lease Monitoring Form:** The current form was circulated for review, and a discussion of the monitoring process was held for Bruce's orientation. Dianne reported on attempts to create a checklist based on the general and specific lease terms for each field, but this would result in a multi-page checklist unique to each field. The group decided to continue using the current form, and review the field lease when monitoring a particular field, per current practice. A short list of subjective questions/recommendations proposed by Erin will be added to the back of the form.
- 5. Orientation meeting with new lessee:** Erin reported she has contacted the new lessee, J&J Brothers, to arrange an orientation with them, but does not have a firm date and time yet.

6. **Fields 5A, 7A, 19A overgrowth:** Not discussed in detail. All three fields are in need of mowing, but the weather has been an issue with this. Dianne will follow up with the lessee.
7. **Field 20A - implementation of consultant recommendations:** Not discussed in detail. Prior to the meeting, Dianne had circulated the map in a format printable on 8-1/2 x 11 size. She handed out a 2016 aerial photo for possible reference/comparison. Mike reported the lessee seems to have adapted the mowing to field and weather conditions. Mike suggested the Committee members walk the field before further discussion and everyone agreed.
8. **Proposal for RFQ re: assessment of conditions for specific management areas:** Not taken up in detail due to meeting time.
9. **Other matters:** Dianne circulated the Farmland Lease Program summary document, as revised periodically, and asked everyone to think about any proposed edits for the next meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.