



Kent County Agriculture Preservation Board  
Wednesday, October 5, 2022 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Kent County Administration Building – Room 311  
Minutes prepared by  
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### Draft Minutes

**Members Present:** Chair Dennis Heffron (Agricultural Representative), Vice Chair Suzie Reinbold (Real Estate Interest), Jessica Marks (Agricultural Interest), Carolyn Johnson (Conservation Interest), Monica Sparks (County Commissioner)

**Absent:** Secretary Russ Slater (Agricultural Interest), Ed Robinette (Township Interest)

**Staff:** Mark Rambo, Matt Channing

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Vice Chair Reinbold welcomed everyone to the meeting at 11:35 am.
- II. **Approval of the Agenda** – A motion as made by Jessica Marks to approve the October 5, 2022 Agenda. Vice Chair Reinbold supported. UNANIMOUS.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – A motion was made by Jessica Marks to approve the September 7, 2022 minutes. Vice Chair Reinbold supported. UNANIMOUS.
- IV. **Public Comment on Agenda Items** – None
- V. **Agricultural Preservation Board Marketing** – The Agricultural Preservation Board agreed that there needs to be more awareness of the program. There would be more awareness if there was more money to preserve more land and that there are a lot of benefactors here, but they don't seem willing to put in the money.

Denny and Russ are working to bring in large grocery stores into publicly supporting land preservation. Staff will research the process to get land preservation donations available at check out from local stores. Denny suggested also looking into the Gerber Foundation to see what their options are for grants.

- VI. **PDR 2023 Update** – Staff informed the Agricultural Preservation Board that the Board of Commissioners approved the 2023 Selection Criteria and that the PDR program is on schedule to run from 11/1/2022 – 1/31/2023. Staff intends to host two townhalls, one in Lowell on

11/10/2022 and one in Sparta on 12/14/2022. Carolyn informed Matt that the December date should be reconsidered as that was an important date for deer hunting season and the event might not be well attended.

- VII. Staff Update** – Staff updated the Agricultural Preservation Board on various items including: the closing date for the Sieracki property on October 17, the denial of the \$2 million ARPA funding for PDR, and the timeline to complete the three recently funded ACEP applications. There is a Purchase Order in development for getting appraisals done on the three parcels plus.
- VIII. General Public Comment** – None.
- IX. Board Updates** – Chair Heffron challenged staff to set an ambitious date for the ACEP closings with the target being April. The Chair also updated the Agricultural Preservation Board regarding the TDR meeting held at GVSU. It was attended by a diverse array of Townships and there is positive momentum going forward.
- X. Adjournment** – A motion as made by Vice Chair Reinbold to adjourn until next meeting. Jessica Marks supported. UNANIMOUS

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Next Meeting:  
Wednesday, November 2, 2022  
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Kent County 3rd floor Rm 311