



Kent County Agriculture Preservation Board
Wednesday, March 4, 2022 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Kent County Administration Building – Room 311
Minutes prepared by
Matthew Channing, matthew.channing@kentcountymi.org

Approved Minutes

Members Present: Chair Dennis Heffron (Agricultural Representative), Secretary Russ Slater (Agricultural Interest), Jessica Marks (Agricultural Interest), Monica Sparks (County Commissioner)

Absent: Vice Chair Suzie Reinbold (Real Estate Interest), Ed Robinette (Township Interest)

Vacant: Conservation Interest

Staff: Al Vanderberg, Paul Petr, Matt Channing

- I. **Welcome and Introductions** – Chair Dennis Heffron welcomed everyone to the meeting at 11:37 am. Carolyn Johnson from the Kent Conservation District attended. The Agricultural Preservation Board (Board) members introduced themselves to Administrator Al Vanderberg.
- II. **Approval of the Agenda** – A motion as made by Jessica Marks to approve the January 12, 2022 Agenda. Commissioner Sparks supported. UNANIMOUS.
- III. **Approval of Minutes** – A motion was made by Jessica Marks to approve the December 1, 2021 minutes. Commissioner Sparks supported. UNANIMOUS.
- IV. **Public Comment on Agenda Items** – There was no public comment.
- V. **Administrator's Q&A** – Administrator Al Vanderberg addressed questions from Board members regarding formation of the Board and Kent County's growth, environmental sustainability, and the ability to facilitate local units of government using the tools of their own choosing to shape their own growth.
- VI. **Purchase of Development Rights Signs** – Staff presented the two final designs, provided by Jessica Marks, from the February informational meeting. Board members agreed that there were positive elements in both. Additionally, given the size of the seal relative to the sign, the speed by which viewers would view, and the fact that there would be another sign on the

property bearing the Kent County Seal, the seal should be removed. Requested updates. Jessica Marks was able to furnish the Board with the updated graphic.

A motion as made by Commissioner Sparks to accept the sign with the blue border, white text, no seal, and red farm buildings and implements. UNANIMOUS.

- VII. Staff Update** – Staff gave several updates to the Agricultural Preservation Board including attending a meeting with the Wege Foundation, a presentation to the Kent County Board of Commissioners’ Executive Committee along with its request for a work session addressing Grow by Choice, a meeting with MSUE’s government relations staff, pending federal and state legislation, webinars on climate and agrivoltaics, and the status of the appointment to the vacant Conservation Interest position on the Baord.
- VIII. General Public Comment** – None.
- IX. Board Member Updates** – None.
- X. Adjournment** – A motion as made by Secretary Slater to adjourn until next meeting. Jessica Marks supported. UNANIMOUS

The meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Next Meeting:

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

11:30 a.m.to 1:00 p.m.

Kent County 3rd floor Rm 311