

MINUTES
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE
SUB-COMMITTEE ON APPOINTMENTS
MONDAY, MAY 3, 2010
4:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Chair: Burton. Members: Myers, Nonna, Testa. Legislators: Harckham, Kaplowitz. Staff: Vita.

ATTENDANCE: Barbara Wilkens, Chair-Ag Farmland Board; Jan Blaire; Barbara Sacks; Chris Crane, Shirley Bianco.

Chairman Burton called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

INTRODUCTION:

Legislator Kaplowitz gave a brief history of the inception of the Agricultural Farmland Board. The County worked together with Westchester County farmers (mostly from Northern Westchester) to work their own land. Barbara Wilkens, the owner of Wilkens Farm in Cortlandt, was elected to be the first Chairperson of this Board, and to date remains the Chair.

The Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board was created by the Board of Legislators (Act #153-1999, pursuant to Section 302 of the NYS Agricultural and Markets Law. This law authorizes NYS Counties to establish an Agriculture Farmland Protection Board to advance the policy of conserving and protecting agricultural lands as valued natural and ecological resources.

Under this Act, six (6) appointed members are chosen to reside within the County and the Chairman of the BOL nominates all candidates with no further action of the Board.

Four (4) members shall be active farmers; 1 member shall represent agribusiness; and 1 member shall represent an organization dedicated to agricultural land preservation or be a resident of Westchester County. They shall serve a 2-year term up to four years, and members may be reappointed for a succeeding term without limitations.

Ms. Wilkens stated that the Board must be at full complement by mid-June and to date, several changes must be made: Thomas Cogger, is very ill and must be replaced; Michael Dignelli will be reappointed; Annie Farrell, retired and will be replaced by Lisa Schwartz; Don Homer resigned on September 2009 and will be replaced by Shirley Bianco, who will be appointed today.

Submitted by: Emilia Vita
Approved: 6/21/10

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APPOINTMENT:

Shirley Bianco: Is a resident of Bedford, New York and has been recommended to serve out the term of Don Homer of the Agricultural Farmland Board due to his resignation, from August 10, 2010 to expire on August 10, 2012.

Ms. Bianco was formerly a currency trader with Merrill Lynch from 1982 through 1996. She has a small farm in Bedford and is the owner of WoolWorks, an organic sheep operation that grows local wool and sells product to area boutiques and to Barney's New York.

Both Legislators Harckham and Kaplowitz highly recommend Ms. Bianco to serve on this Board; she will be an asset to this Board. She has served on the following Committees of the Corporation Board: Finance, Audit & Corporate Compliance, Quality & Governance, and most recently, she was appointed by the Governance Chair to serve as the liaison between the Corporation Board and the Board of Legislators.

The reappointment is recommended highly by all, moved by Legislator Testa, seconded by Legislator Nonna, motion carried 4-0.

Emmeline Rocha-Sinha: Is a resident of Chappaqua, and has been recommended for reappointment as a voting member, to the WCHHC Board of Directors by the Chair of the Governance Committee and by the BOL Chairman, for a term to expire April 27, 2014. She has been serving as a voting member of the Board of Directors since 2006 and has outstanding qualifications that have made her a pivotal member. She has over 20 years experience in the public and financial industry, with high experience in financial services with non-profit hospitals which makes her contributions invaluable to the Board.

She serves as the Treasurer of the Board and is a member of the Executive, Finance, Personnel & Compensation, Governance and Technology committees. She also chairs the Corporations Audit and Corporate Compliance Committee, and the Corporations Department of Internal Audit & Corporate Compliance has developed strong resources and reporting mechanisms during her tenure.

The appointment is also highly recommended by all, moved by Legislator Myers, seconded by Legislator Nonna, motion carried 4-0.

Bob Boland added that all three candidates have numerous years of experience in finances and outstanding backgrounds in the corporation industry. They are

all highly recommended by him for reappointment and to continue the great job at the Medical Center and to the County.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.