

Cindy Harding, Chairman
Thomas E. Boldin
Carl V. Homan
Frederick G. Moore



Thomas Songer III
Joel Myers
Ronald J. Hoover
Dennis E. Buffington
Norm Lathbury, Coordinator

CENTRE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AUGUST 29, 2019

Present: T. Boldin; C. Homan; T. Songer; J. Myers; R. Hoover; D. Buffington

Staff: Norman Lathbury (Centre County Planning Office)
Stacy Mann (Centre County Planning Office)
Raymond Stolinas (Centre County Planning Office)
Mark Higgins (Centre County Commissioner)
Ernest Greene (Stephanie Borowicz)
Diana Griffith (Ferguson Township)

The meeting was called to order by Norm Lathbury, Coordinator at 7:31 p.m. With the Chairman and Vice-Chairman not being present the floor was open for election of Pro-Tem Chair. On a motion by Tom B. and seconded by Dennis, the Board voted Carl Homan as to Pro-Tem Chair for the August meeting. Motion carried.

Public Introductions

Norm introduced the public. Ray Stolinas, Director of the Centre County Planning Office; Diana Griffith, next Ag Land Preservation Program Coordinator to start September 30; Ernest Greene, District Constituent Outreach Specialist from State Representative Stephanie Borowicz's Office.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Ron and seconded by Joel, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2019 meeting. Motion carried.

Information Items

Easement Status Updates

- Wheland Easement - the closing for the Wheland Farm is set for September 4 @ 2:00 p.m. at Tussey Settlement Office.
- Connelly Easement - the state board approved the easement at the State Board Meeting August 22. The funds should be released December or early January.
- Campbell Farm - the appraisal has been completed and the acre value is **\$3,840***.
- McWilliams Farm - the appraisal has been completed but the hard copy has not been received. The acre value is \$4,320 which is over the cap. Norm has mentioned to Mr. McWilliams about using the additional funds for a charitable gift.

* Minutes correction for the Campbell Farm per acre appraisal value is \$3,840.

Action Items

Survey Bid for Campbell Farm

Norm stated that the Appraisals are complete. The next step is to get a signed Sales Agreement and order a survey for the Campbell Farm. On a motion by Joel and seconded by Tom B., the Board voted to move forward with the survey RFP for the Campbell Farm. Motion carried.

Survey Bid for McWilliams Farm

Norm stated that the Appraisals are complete. The next step is to get a signed Sales Agreement and order a survey for the McWilliams Farm. On a motion by Dennis and seconded by Ron, the Board voted to move forward with the survey RFP for the McWilliams Farm. Motion carried.

Changes to County Guidelines based on Bureau recommendations

Norm presented the board with the Bureau recommendations to the County Guidelines. On a motion by Tom and seconded by Joel, the Board voted to agree to apply with the State recommendations to the County Guidelines. Motion carried.

Consideration of suggested changes to County Guidelines

Norm presented the Board with an "Appraisal and Incidental Fees Authorization Form" for review and discussion at future meetings. After discussion it is going to be looked into further and talked about at a later date.

Items for the Good of the Order

Commissioner Higgins stated that the County matching fund for the program has been at \$80,000 for a number of years. It is a very important group performing a very important function for the quality of life for the residents of Centre County so he is going to ask his fellow commissioners in the new budget year if the County's contribution could be increased to \$100,000. He is only one vote out of three but he is hoping as they go through the budget season there is \$20,000 to do this.

The board truly appreciates the effort to get the dollar figure up and his presence at the meetings and interest in Ag Land Preservation.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for October 24, 2019 in Room 146 of the Willowbank Office Building beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Adjournment

On a motion by Tom S. and seconded by Joel, the meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m. Motion carried.

Submitted by,

Norm Lathbury
Recording Secretary