



BERKS COUNTY *agricultural land* PRESERVATION BOARD

Berks County Agricultural Center
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County Commissioners:

Christian Y. Leinbach, Chair
Kevin S. Barnhardt
Mark C. Scott, Esq.

Board Members:

David L. Phillips, Chair
James R. Coker, Vice Chair
Wilson M. Balthaser

Robert E. Kopfer
Robert B. Ludgate, Sr., PE, PLS
Jeremy R. Meck

Steven C. Mohn
Clyde A. B. Myers
Louise A. Swartley

Ex Officio:

Robert C. Ziegenfus, Ph.D.

Minutes from the October 30, 2019 Meeting

The Berks County Agricultural Land Preservation Board (Board) held a regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 30, 2019 at 7:35 PM at the Berks County Agricultural Center. David Phillips, Chair, called the meeting to order. Board members present included Wilson Balthaser, James Coker, Robert Kopfer, Jeremy Meck, Steven Mohn, David Phillips and Louise Swartley. Also in attendance were Mark Sprow, Esq. Special Counsel for the Board; Tami Hildebrand, Executive Director; Kimberly Fies and Amanda Burkard-Sell, staff.

- I. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS – None.**
II. NEW BUSINESS

A. Welcome New Board Member – Louise Swartley

D. Phillips skipped ahead in the agenda to welcome the new member of the Board: Louise Swartley, who will finish out the term of Vickie Kintzer and was reappointed for an additional three (3) years. All of the Board members introduced themselves.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: A motion was made to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2019 meeting, as drafted. (J. Coker, W. Balthaser)

Discussion: None.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

IV. STATUS OF RECOMMENDATION UPDATES

- The Board reviewed the previously distributed Status of Recommendations. Dockets #1601, #1901, #1905, #1509, #1333, and #1917 have all moved from offers pending to title and survey work since the landowners have accepted the offers.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Five-year Outreach Activities Plan – Status of Projects

- As Clyde Myers is absent from the meeting, T. Hildebrand reviewed the work that he has done to date on the Five-year Outreach Activities Plan for the Board.
- A. Burkard-Sell reported that to-date donations received for the Farm Forever Sign Project totaled of \$20,975.00 and funds continue to be received. Burkard-Sell added that 78 signs had been requested from landowners and that K. Fies was continuing to deliver them.
- T. Hildebrand reported that the Reading Eagle's Berks Country articles will resume shortly. The next article will feature Amy Garber of Irish Creek Stables.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review of Conveyance Report

- T. Hildebrand explained the Conveyance report, which was reviewed by the Board. Settlements #183.0.CO, #670.0.FD, #105, #249.1, and #249.2 have transferred correctly; Settlement #586 is still outstanding and was not corrected with the next transfer as was agreed; Attorney Sprow will send a letter to the attorney who handled the transfer.

B. PENNVEST – Proposed Grant Application for Perkiomen Avenue Water Main Project

- T. Hildebrand informed the Board of a request that was received to review a PENNVEST project for the relocation and replacement of a water main owned by the Mount Penn Municipal Authority due to PennDOT repairs on Perkiomen Avenue. Hildebrand added that although there are no preserved farms, farms in the Ag Security Area, or properties in Effective Ag Zoning within a two-mile radius, the Board needs to provide input on the project.

Motion: A motion was made to recommend the proposed Perkiomen Avenue Water Main Project for a PENNVEST grant. (J. Coker, R. Kopfer)

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

C. Rural Enterprise Request – Duncan AirBnB

- The Board reviewed a request for an AirBnB Rural Enterprise on Settlement #20.0 (Duncan). T. Hildebrand described the venture, which occurs within the existing house or a tent and meets the requirements of the Rural Enterprise guidelines.

Motion: A motion was made to approve the Duncan AirBnB Rural Enterprise for Settlement #20. (J. Coker, S. Mohn)

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

D. Rural Enterprise Request – Weaver Excavating Equipment

- T. Hildebrand reported shortly before the meeting she had received a phone from the landowner withdrawing his Rural Enterprise request, as he had found another alternative.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- T. Hildebrand presented the following easement modification request that had been received:
 - Settlement #150 (Zimmerman) - a request to construct a 41,500 sq. foot chicken house; this will be the fourth chicken house on the property.
- T. Hildebrand reviewed the contents of the Board packet, a new directory and statewide statistics after the October 12, 2019 State Board of Farmland Preservation meeting. There are now 5,607 farms consisting of 574,642 acres preserved in Pennsylvania.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

Motion: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 pm. (R. Kopfer, L. Swartley)

Respectfully submitted,

Signature on file.

Amanda K. Burkard-Sell
ACE Program Coordinator