

Norman K. Lathbury, Chairman
Thomas E. Boldin
Cindy B. Harding
Carl V. Homan
Frederick G. Moore



Thomas Songer III
Joel Myers
Ronald J. Hoover
Dennis E. Buffington
Sarah Walter, Coordinator

CENTRE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 25, 2018

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

Staff: Sarah Walter (Centre County Planning Office)
Mark Higgins (Centre County Commissioner)

Public: Kevin Abbey (Clearwater Conservancy)

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lathbury at 7:31 p.m.

Public Comments

Kevin Abbey with Clearwater Conservancy: Attending to observe. Stated that Deb Nardone and Sarah Walter had discussed potential to work more closely on conservation projects.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Tom B. and seconded by Carl, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2017 meeting. Motion carried.

New Business

Dreibelbis Residence Request

Sarah reported that Ray Dreibelbis of Ferguson Township is requesting an additional residence for his son. The Dreibelbis easement spans from Whitehall Road to Route 45. Ferguson Township did approve the residence and there will be no subdivision. On a motion by Tom B. and seconded by Dennis, the Board voted to approve the additional residence on the Ray Dreibelbis Easement in Ferguson Township. Motion carried.

Approve ACEP 2018 Applications (Corl and Connelly)

Sarah reported that the ACEP application period is open and closes March 1. Sarah heard back from the State that the Corl application from last year was not funded. The State reported that they ran out of funding so they selected the highest ranking 2017 farms. The Corl farm can be resubmitted for 2018. The board may elect to submit a second application in 2018 - the Connolly Farm in Ferguson Township at 250 acres is next on the list. The board may also wait for an updated 2018 ranking, but would not make the March 1 deadline. On a motion by Tom S. and seconded by Carl, the Board voted to approve submitting the Corl and Connolly Farms for the 2018 ACEP Application period. Motion carried.

2018 PACE Ranking

Sarah reported that the guidelines that were approved in December require us to rank every year. At this time the LESA software is getting update. Sarah will wait until the software is updated to update the ranking for 2018.

Kevin Abbey stated that Clearwater just got a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant to begin planning in the Scotia area to prepare for conservation from the Bald Eagle Ridge to the Tussey Ridge.

Old Business

2017 PACE Easement Status (Meyer, Thomson)

Sarah reported that the Meyer Easement survey came back and it is being prepared to go to the State Board in March or April meeting.

Sarah reported on the Thomson Easement. She is working on the State application and the appraiser completed the site visit his week.

2016 ACEP Easement Status (Grove, Fravel, Harpster)

Sarah reported that the Grove and Fravel Easements were approved by the State in August and their checks have been received. Currently waiting for one final NRCS form the "Acceptance of Property Interest" page to close, both are in the mail.

Sarah reported that the Harpster Easement was to go to state board in December but there was a last minute neighbor boundary dispute when the certified letters went out notifying the neighbors about the easement. The adjoining land owner hired their own surveyor. The dispute was credible so the application was pulled from the state agenda. The survey has since been revised, reducing the easement area by 1.5 acres. Harpster will now go to State Board in February.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for March 22, 2018 in Room 146 of the Willowbank Office Building beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Adjournment

On a motion by Tom B. and seconded by Dennis, the meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m. Motion carried.

Submitted by,

Sarah Walter
Recording Secretary