

Norman Lathbury, Chairman
Cindy B. Harding
Thomas E. Boldin
Carl V. Homan
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Joseph Homan
Thomas Songer III
Ronald J. Hoover
Dennis E. Buffington
Diana Griffith, Coordinator

CENTRE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD

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January 23, 2020 MEETING AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

APPOINTMENTS

Narrative: Introducing and welcoming Joseph Homan, PACE landowner since 2008. His farm is located on Shingletown Road in Ferguson Township. The Centre County Board of Commissioners on January 7 appointed Mr. Homan to a 3-year term on the CCALPB, filling the vacancy left by Joel Myers.

INTRODUCTIONS

Narrative: Donald and Teresa Grove are #4 on the 2019 ranked PACE applications list. The board will review their application at tonight's meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

APPROVAL OF THE OCTOBER 24, 2019 MINUTES

BOARD REORGANIZATION

Narrative: The board will nominate and appoint its 2020 officers.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Certification of 2020 Agricultural Preservation Funds

Narrative: At the January 14 Centre County Board of Commissioners meeting, Diana Griffith and Norman Lathbury on January 14 requested approval of the 2020 funding for the purchase of agricultural conservation easements. The BOC will vote to approve as part of its consent agenda on January 21. The state requires the 2020 certification of funds to be submitted by January 31. *See attachment.*

2. Ronald E. and Frank S. Connelly, Jr. Farm Closing

Narrative: This 235-acre farm approved for an agricultural easement by the CCALPB in 2018 closed on its agricultural conservation easement on January 7, 2020. Known as Fairbrook Farms, the property is located on Tadpole Road in Ferguson Township. The Connelly easement

was funded by federal as well as state, county, and Ferguson Township agricultural easement programs. This was the county's 53rd farm to be preserved, and the 26th farm to be preserved in Ferguson Township. Diana Griffith distributed a press release.

See attachment.

3. J. Roy Campbell and Galen G. and Katherine M. McWilliams Farms

Narrative: Surveys were completed and funds were encumbered for these two Ferguson Township farms approved for an easement by the CCALPB in 2019. Diana Griffith will present their applications to the state board at its February 20 meeting.

4. PACE Program Updates

Narrative: The CCALPB is encouraged to follow news updates from the state. Diana Griffith has been disseminating newsletters and news releases about program updates designed to support farmers as they transition their operations, expand operations, or pursue agritourism opportunities.

See attachments.

5. Potter Township Agricultural Security Area reduced by 82 acres

Narrative: The Yarger family of Yarger Precision Machining (DBRA Enterprises LP) at 2848 Earlystown Road has removed its 82-acre property at 114 Emmanuel Drive from the ASA.

6. Stewards of our Farmland: PowerPoint Presentation

Narrative: Diana Griffith will present a visual tour of our preserved farms during our 2019 inspection. Diana, Norm Lathbury and Stacy Mann completed biennial inspections of 15 county-funded farms and annual inspections of 19 federally funded farms. The state requires a list of inspected farms to be submitted by March 31. 2020 inspections will begin this spring.

See attachment.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Presentation of the Donald and Teresa Grove Farm for PACE Approval

Narrative: For the Board's consideration, the Donald and Teresa Grove Farm, Parcel No. 20-005-,025-, an 85-acre crop operation of corn and soybeans at 2661 Earlystown Road in Centre Hall, Potter Township.

Staff Recommendation: That the CCALPB approve the application of Donald and Teresa Grove for an agricultural easement and authorize an appraisal.

See attachment.

ITEMS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

ADJOURNMENT

The next Board meeting will be **Thursday, February 27, at 7:30 pm** at the Willowbank Office Building, Bellefonte, PA.