

Thomas E. Boldin, Chair
Thomas Songer III, Vice-Chair
Ronald J. Hoover, Secretary
Ralph Wheland, Treasurer
Dennis E. Buffington



Joel Myers
Joseph Homan
Cindy B. Harding
James Heckman
Diana Griffith, Coordinator

CENTRE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD

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APPROVED MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 26, 2023

Present: T. Boldin; T. Songer; R. Hoover; R. Wheland; D. Buffington; J. Myers, J. Homan;
C. Harding; J. Heckman

Staff: Diana Griffith (Centre County Planning Office)
Stacy Mann (Centre County Planning Office)
Raymond Stolinas (Centre County Planning Office)

1. Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Boldin welcomed board members and called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., announcing that the meeting was being recorded.

2. Additions to the Agenda

None.

3. Introductions and Opportunity for Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of the November 17, 2022 Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Hoover and seconded by Mr. Songer, the Board voted to approve the minutes of November 17, 2022 meeting. Motion carried.

5. Old Business

None

6. New Business

Board Reorganization and Elections

On a motion by Ms. Harding and seconded by Mr. Buffington, the Board voted to retain Mr. Songer as Vice-Chair for 2023. Motion carried.

On a motion by Mr. Buffington and seconded by Ms. Harding, the Board voted to retain Mr. Hoover as Secretary for 2023. Motion carried.

On a motion by Ms. Harding and seconded by Mr. Heckman, the Board voted to retain Mr. Wheland as Treasurer for 2023. Motion carried.

Opening of Survey Bids for the Joanne M. Fisher Farm

- 1) Cunningham Surveyors \$9,500
- 2) Hawbaker Engineering \$8,400
- 3) HRG \$7,200
- 4) Keller Engineering \$3,925**
- 5) Navarro and Wright \$25,700
- 6) PCI Peters Consulting \$10,800
- 7) PennCore \$6,500

On a motion by Mr. Buffington and seconded by Mr. Songer, the Board voted to award the Fisher Farm Survey in Halfmoon Township to Keller Engineering. Motion carried.

7. Correspondence

None.

8. Agricultural Land Preservation Coordinator's Report and Board Orientation

Surveys have been completed for the Barker Farm in Potter Township, Corl Farm in Benner Township, Harpster Farm in Ferguson Township and the Strickler Farm in Walker Township. They are being prepared for the State Board Meeting on April 13.

The closing was completed for the Burket Farm in Ferguson Township on January 17, 2023.

The Miller Farm in Ferguson Township will be delayed 12-16 weeks because the landowners are doing a 1031 exchange that requires the review and approval of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture's Solicitor.

The Halfmoon Township Supervisors will terminate the Fisher Farm's enrollment in their 99-year lease program and record the termination so that Ms. Fisher's title search will be updated. Her application for federal funding is also in progress.

At the Commissioners Meeting on Tuesday, January 24, the Commissioners certified \$352,183.85 to fund agricultural conservation easements this year. The total amount certified determines the State's allocation to the program. The contributions include: Halfmoon Township, up to \$224,000; Potter Township, \$10,000; Ferguson Township, \$2,550, and Clean and Green Rollback Tax Penalties, \$35,633.85.

Centre County has 59 Ag Conservation Easements preserved through the Commonwealth's program and six in progress. To date our board has preserved 8,685 acres.

Board members are required to complete the State Ethics Commission's "Statement of Financial Interests" for 2022 and submit to the Centre County Commissioners' Office by May 1, 2023.

9. Items for the Good of the Order

None.

10. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Heckman and seconded by Ms. Harding, the meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m. Motion carried.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for February 23, 2023 in Room 146 of the Willowbank Office Building beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Diana Griffith
Recording Secretary