

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



Joseph Homan
Thomas Songer III
Ronald J. Hoover
Dennis E. Buffington
Diana Griffith, Coordinator

CENTRE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JULY 30, 2020

Present: N. Lathbury; C. Harding; T. Boldin; J. Homan; T. Songer

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

Public: Tom and Lori Hartle, Janice Keough

Chairman Lathbury welcomed everyone to the first ever virtual Ag Land Preservation Meeting and called the meeting to order at 7:52 p.m. after a few technical issues.

Introductions

Tom and Lori Hartle and Janice Keough announced themselves on the virtual meeting.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Boldin and seconded by Mr. J. Homan, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2020 meeting. Motion carried.

Old Business

McWilliams Farm Closing July 13, 2020

Ms. Griffith reported that the McWilliams Farm closing was July 13, 2020. A press release will be distributed on July 31.

J. Roy Campbell Farm

Ms. Griffith reported that the State's check for the Campbell Farm is in the mail. The closing is tentatively scheduled for mid-August.

Donald and Teresa Grove Farm

Ms. Griffith reported that the Grove survey has been completed. The State Board date is tentatively set for August 20, 2020 and should be confirmed by tomorrow.

John and Sue Campbell Subdivision

Ms. Griffith reported the John and Sue Campbell subdivision was approved at the last State Board meeting.

CBICC ABC Essentials Program on May 18

Ms. Griffith reported that she and Chairman Lathbury participated in the Chamber's ABC Essentials Program

on May 18, 2020 to give a presentation on the Farmland Preservation program.

Informational Items

Upcoming Inspections

Ms. Griffith advised the Board that because of COVID-19 precautions, she is going to start the inspections earlier this year, including all federally funded farms and the remaining County farms, as they are inspected only every other year. She will mail a postcard to all the landowners whose farms will be inspected in 2020.

Lock Haven Express's Upcoming Interview

Ms. Griffith informed the Board that the Lock Haven Express is producing a special tab featuring agriculture. Writer Chris Morelli asked her to suggest two Centre County farmers who may be interested in being interviewed. She suggested Cindy and Jeff Harding, as the recipients of the Pennsylvania Farm Vitality Planning Grant; and Greg Woomer, a beginning farmer who will be purchasing the Tice Farm in the coming months.

New Business

Proposal to Subdivide the Thomas and Loretta Hartle Farm

Ms. Griffith presented the Board with a narrative and supporting materials from the Hartles. The Hartle Farm has been on the market for two years. The Hartles cited health reasons for their decision to sell their dairy cows and farm. In addition, their children and grandchildren live in other states and are not interested in farming the land. The intent is to subdivide a 12-acre parcel with the secondary buildings. After a lengthy conservation, the Board tabled a vote pending clarification on whether the proposed subdivision meets State minimum criteria guidelines. On a motion by Mr. Songer and seconded by Mr. Boldin, the Board voted to table. Motion carried.

Pauline Cooper Estate Farm for discussion and PACE Approval

Ms. Griffith informed the Board that the Pauline Cooper Estate Farm is number one on the updated 2020 list of active applications, with 133 ranked acres of farmland and 253 acres of woodland. The 391-acre crop operation in Ferguson Township is contiguous to the Ralph Wheland preserved farm and clustered with 11 other PACE-preserved farms in this area. The estate's co-executors propose to sell the development rights to the farmland while donating the development rights to the woodland as a bargain sale. The house will also be excluded from the easement. More than 50 percent of the farm's soils are in Class 1-IV. On a motion by Mr. Songer and seconded by Ms. Harding, the Board voted to authorize the Cooper Farm for an appraisal. Motion carried.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled to be held September 24, 2020 virtually or in Room 146 of the Willowbank Office Building, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Songer and seconded by Ms. Harding, the meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m. Motion carried.

Submitted by,

Stacy Mann
Recording Secretary