

Thomas E. Boldin, Chair
Thomas Songer III, Vice-Chair
Ronald J. Hoover, Secretary
Ralph Wheland, Treasurer
Lamartine F. Hood



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 SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

Present: T. Boldin; T. Songer; R. Hoover; R. Wheland; L. Hood; J. Myers, J. Homan; C. Harding
Staff: Diana Griffith (Centre County Planning Office)
Stacy Mann (Centre County Planning Office)
Raymond Stolinas (Centre County Planning Office)
Commissioner Concepcion (Centre County Commissioners Office)

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.

1. Additions to the Agenda

None.

2. Welcome Lam Hood as Newest ALPB Member

Chair Boldin welcomed Mr. Hood and the board members introduced themselves.

3. Introductions and Opportunity for Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of the May 4, 2023 Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Mr. Songer and seconded by Ms. Harding, the Board voted to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2023 meeting. Motion carried.

5. Old Business

None.

6. New Business

Brian Pedrick as Appraiser for a third year on the same terms

Ms. Griffith provided correspondence that Brian Pedrick is willing to continue for an additional year

with his agreement. On a motion by Mr. Songer and seconded by Mr. Homan, the Board voted to retain Brian Pedrick with Agrarian Associates Inc. for an additional year. Motion carried.

Land Transfer Navigator Grant Application

Ms. Griffith presented the board with an overview of the American Farmland Trust Land Transfer Navigator Grant, advising that the Commissioners approved the Planning Department's request to apply for the by-invitation-only \$100,000 Grant. If selected the County would receive \$25,000 annually for four years. Recipients will be announced by September 29, 2023.

History of Financing of PACE Easements

Ms. Griffith presented the board with an overview of the PACE easement financing history, including past contributions from municipal partners, and explained and how municipal funds are leveraged.

7. Correspondence

None.

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

Ms. Griffith noted that three farm closings are scheduled for October 30, 2023. The Barker Easement in Potter Township, the Harpster Easement in Ferguson Township, and the Strickler Easement in Walker Township. The Corl Easement in Benner Township is expected to close shortly thereafter.

Inspections have been completed in College, Ferguson, Harris, and Potter Townships. A few remaining farms in the Bellefonte area will be inspected soon.

Appraisals have been completed for the Hall Family Farm and the Gates Farm. The Fisher Farm appraisal has been completed, but because the farm has been approved for federal funding, NRCS needs to complete a final review of the appraisal. The appraisal will be forwarded to the board when final..

Ms. Griffith informed the board that she has announced her retirement effective December 21, 2023.

10. Items for the Good of the Order

None.

11. Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Songer and seconded by Ms. Harding, the meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m. Motion carried.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for October 26, 2023 in Room 146 of the Willowbank Office Building beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Submitted by,

Diana Griffith, Recording Secretary