

Cindy B. Harding, Chair
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 DECEMBER 10, 2020

Present: C. Harding; T. Boldin; C. Homan; J. Homan; T. Songer; R. Hoover

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

Public: Larry and Suzanne Harpster

Chair Harding welcomed everyone to the virtual Ag Land Preservation Meeting and called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Introductions

Larry and Suzanne Harpster have an 83-acre crop operation in Ferguson Township they are interested in preserving.

New Business

Discussion and vote on the application to approve the Larry and Suzanne Harpster Farm

Ms. Griffith reported that the Harpsters have an 83-acre crop operation at 6100 Tadpole Road in Ferguson Township and in an Ag Security Area. Forty-nine (49) acres are dedicated to crop farming. The Harpsters would like to donate the development rights to the 22 acres of woodland excluded from the farm's evaluation. This property ranks #2 on the 2020 ranked parcel list with a score of 77.039. On a motion by Mr. Boldin and seconded by Mr. J. Homan, the Board voted to authorize the Harpster Farm for an appraisal. Motion carried.

Informational Items

Cooper Farm

Ms. Griffith stated that because of the pandemic, the State has extended the deadline to encumber funds from the 2019 budget until March 31, 2021. This should allow enough time for the Cooper and the Harpster farms to be encumbered. Ms. Griffith informed the Board that she is still waiting on a signed agreement of sale for the Cooper Farm in Ferguson Township and has sent friendly reminders. The co-executors did accept the board's offer. She reported that once their signed agreement of sale is in hand, an RFP to survey the property will be published.

Upcoming Inspections

Ms. Griffith stated that she has completed about half of the farm inspections by herself. Because of COVID-19 precautions, the remaining inspections will be delayed until early March when she and Stacy will be able

to complete them together.

Ferguson Township Ag Budget

Ms. Griffith informed the board that Ferguson Township's Board of Supervisors voted to cut the Municipal Partnership Program annual contribution from its 2021 budget because of pandemic-induced hardships.

Township Manager Mr. David Pribulka expressed his regret about the supervisors' decision and suggested we respond to the supervisors' questions and concerns about future funding by making a presentation prior to their 2022 budget work sessions.

State Board Meeting

Ms. Griffith stated that the State Legislature reduced Pennsylvania's agricultural land preservation program budget by \$5 million dollars in 2020 and also in 2021 as a result of the pandemic. The State Ag Land board's legislative liaison Kerry Golden reported that the legislature could have cut the program entirely, as it considered a "nice to have" program but not essential. She suggested writing to thank legislators for sustaining the program.

2021 Meeting Dates

Ms. Mann presented the proposed meeting dates for 2021 for approval by the board. The meetings are scheduled for the fourth Thursday of the month -- moving July to the fifth Thursday and November to the third Thursday. It will be noted on the website that all meetings will be held virtually until further notice. On a motion by Mr. Songer and seconded by Mr. C. Homan, the board voted to approve the 2021 meeting dates as presented. Motion carried.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for January 28, 2021 in Room 146 of the Willowbank Office Building beginning at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. C. Homan and seconded by Mr. Hoover, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. Motion carried.

Submitted by,

Stacy Mann
Recording Secretary