

# Richland Township Preservation Board Meeting Minutes

July 10, 2019

Submitted by Rich Sadler

## Members Present

In attendance were Kathy Fedorocsko, Dale Henninger and Rich Sadler. Staff member present was Rich Brittingham.

## A. Minutes

May's minutes were approved as reported. Dale motioned, Kathy seconded, unanimous approval.

B. **Financial Report:** As of July 8, 2019, our fund balance stands at \$232,587.54. Assuming the income from the tax & non-easement expenses remain the same thru 2023, we will have approximately \$1,800,000 to spend on preservation thru June 2023.

## B. Property Reports, Active:

1. **Clymer (36-45-27) 225 Axe Handle Road, 55 acres:** In January, we received an application for preservation; after walking the property, we decided to move ahead with an easement. Kathy and Laura Baird have been working with them; their application for inclusion in the Ag Security Program was accepted at the May 13 meeting. The first appraisal from Indian Valley came in at \$10,500 per acre. Rich B will order a second appraisal from Scanzillo.
2. **Shelmire (36-45-28-001 and 003) 95 Axe Handle Road, 50 acres:** In February, we received an application. These properties are adjacent to Clymer. We have walked this property; we'll see how it ranks with our current applications. Kathy will contact Larry Shelmire. We will also have him apply to the County Ag program and we will see if there is other funding available. Rich B sent Mr. Shelmire an Ag Security application.
3. **South Mine Road (36-05-26) Lichtenstein, Donated property:** Since our funds are finite, we were hoping the Trails Committee would step up & pay the legal fees, but they're not interested.

## C. Property Reports: Pending Contact / Action:

1. **New properties;** No answers from any of these property owners contacted in January; Swartley, Zavitsanos, Sames, and Schracht. Laura will contact Dr Zavitsanos and Mr. Sames again. We would like to have a ranking of applications by June, so we can decide which projects we will pursue.
2. **P Sulkowski 36-029-046 290 Raub Rd. 12 acres.** We do not plan to act on their application for preservation at this time. Kathy will send them a letter & keep their application on file.
3. **Krickory 36-39-40 15 acres on Paletown Road.** Mr Krickory offered to donate most of his property in exchange for a sewer connection so he can develop a small part of the lot. Since his property isn't in the 537 plan, we can't do this. Kathy will send him information on donating his property.

9/16/2019

#### D. New Business

1. **Baseline Monitoring:** All properties have been walked & Dan prepared his report. Mr. Landgren asked about taking down dead ash trees on his property.

Left from last year's monitoring problems: Burkey had some dumping. Neil reported problems with the Lisbon tract. 27, 29, & 31 Essex Court are encroaching on Lisbon. There is trash scattered, bushes cleared & 4-wheeler tracks, The County has been notified & hopefully will go after the offending parties. Coby needs to move a manure pile to a 22 x 27 pad, which will be followed up with.

2. **Preserved Property Signs-** Rich B has contacted property owners to let them know they are getting a new sign or an old one will be replaced. Seven property owners have responded so far & Rich B has identified where the signs will be located. The rest of the property owners will be re-contacted.
3. **Village signs- NO CHANGE:** Kathy got samples & estimates for 4 village signs, \$220 each for two sided signs. We chose the blue on white background sample. We can go to the supervisors to see if they will give approval.
4. **Finances - tracking for the future -** Our finances will now be tracked by project as we requested. Rich B said Paul informed him that the township employees' time would be tracked but not deducted from our EIT funds for preservation. However, the consulting costs of Heritage will now be deducted from our funds. It is possible that consulting services can't use these funds.
5. **No Hunting Signs on Romano NO CHANGE;** We would like to get NO HUNTING signs thru the same channel that Tom Marino, chair of Parks and Rec gets them for Veteran's Park, rather than making our own like we had to last time. Rich and Kathy will post sometime in the spring.
6. **Finalize map for Boucher and James -** Joe will finish discussing our recommendations with Judy Stern-Goldstein of Boucher and James. We will order 6 laminated copies.

#### E. Closing - Open Discussion

1. **Freeze on Taxes for County Ag preserved lands-** NO CHANGE; Kathy had been discussing this concept with Kris Kern of Heritage. The process is still unclear, and it will take some research on our part. We like the idea as an incentive, but Joe and Dale expressed concerns with the effects of taxes being frozen in perpetuity. Solebury and Palisades have done this. Mgr Paul Stepanoff is anxious for us to move forward with this and told Rich B there could be a budget from the township for Heritage to work on this for us. We are tabling the subject until we can discuss it in more detail.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 11, 2019 7:00 PM**