

Richland Township Preservation Board Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2017

Submitted by Rich Sadler

Members Present

In attendance were Kathy Fedorocsko, Neil Erkert, Joe Geib and Rich Sadler. Staff member present was Rich Brittingham. Heritage Conservancy represented by Laura Baird. Guest; Supervisor Tim Arnold

A. Minutes

May's minutes approved as written.

B. Financial Report: On July 11, 2017 we had \$626,322.75 in our fund. Our township treasurer, Chuck, projected that we will have \$213,587.70 available on 12/31/17 after purchasing the Easement on Hermann. The bond will be paid off at the end of 2018; the referendum passed so we will continue receiving our 0.1% of the EIT until June 2023.

A. Property Reports, Active:

1. **Walter & Martha Herrman, 36-039-037, 76 acres on Richhill Rd, 65 acres in easement;**
We are attempting to preserve the property thru the County Natural Areas Program requiring a 50% match from us; the Natural Areas Program is holding open a slot for the Hermanns. The 1st appraisal from Indian Valley came in at \$8000/acre, \$520,000 for the entire property. Scanzillo did a 2nd appraisal at \$10,500/acre. The average of the two appraisals is \$9650/acre. Rich B will send the Hermanns a letter after Laura Baird confirms the amount that Natural Areas will pay.
2. **South Mine Road, 36-05-26, Donated property;** The property has title problems; it would cost the township \$3000-\$5000 to obtain a quiet title. Tim suggested that the Preservation Board write a letter to the BOS in support of getting the title straightened out. The Appalachian Mountain Club wants to use the property as a trailhead for the Highlands Trail; they would need permission from the adjacent property owner to allow parking on his lot. .

B. Property Reports: Pending Contact / Action:

1. **Bonk, Meadow Rd., 36-29-78, 109 acres;** Mrs. Bonk' real estate consultant has decided to apply for Ag Security again. Rich Harvey will keep their County Ag application open. The property can be preserved under the County Ag program since the property is ranked #6 on County Ag's list. Tom Stoneback, is presently farming it.
2. **Templeton, Beck Road, 10 Acres;** We sent them a letter stating we're not interested in preserving their property at this time.
3. **Swartley, Trumbauer Road, 81 Acres; No Change;** Rich B sent them an application
4. **Zavitsanos;** We'll try again for preservation.
5. **Kindri;** Heritage acquired it & wants to do a Sign Dedication on August 28, 10AM. The property needs mowing; Laura is asking the Township if they can mow it.

C. Maintenance policy on Township owned preserved properties: No Change; The ground was too wet to mow in April- we hope to mow it this winter. The recommendation is to cut 1/3 of

12/14/2017

the acreage every year. Winter or early spring is the best time for cutting. The Township will have to do the cutting:

- D. **Baseline Monitoring:** 5 more properties were monitored by Heritage & Neil; 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

Motion to Adjourn- Joe motioned, Neil seconded, unanimous approval. Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 9, 7:00 PM