

Richland Township Preservation Board Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2017
Submitted by Rich Sadler

Members Present

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

A. Minutes

January's minutes approved as written.

B. Financial Report: By our township treasurer, Chuck's estimate, we have about \$213,717 available 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;** Laura spoke to them & the Herrman want to move forward again. 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. The Herrmans' are planning to pay for a 2nd appraisal;
2. **South Mine Road, Donated property;** We walked it on 2/23. A phase 1 environmental survey of the property was completed on 2/17. We recommend accepting the donation of the property; it goes to the BOS in March.

B. Property Reports: Pending Contact / Action:

1. **Eberbach, 380 Raub Rd., 36-29-47, 36-29-48-1, 36-29-50-1, 30 acres;** We walked the property on February 23rd; it scored 49 in our evaluation. We'd like to preserve it but would need outside funding.
2. **Bonk, Meadow Rd., 36-29-78, 109 acres;** Kathy & Laura met with Mrs. Bonk on January 20. There is a possible tie-in with Mr. Stoneback as he farms it. Laura wants to try preserving it under the County Ag program since the property is ranked #6 on County Ag's list. The first requirement for County Ag is to get the property added to our Ag Security district. The property was approved for inclusion in our Ag security district on March 1st. Rich will set up an Ag security meeting on April 5th.
3. **Templeton, Beck Road, 10 Acres;** Rich B sent them an application
4. **Swartley, Trumbauer Road, 81 Acres;** Rich B sent them an application

C. Maintenance policy on Township owned preserved properties: Laura will have Jim Drennan from Heritage call Richland's Roadmaster, Jim Benner. The recommendation is to cut 1/3 of the acreage every year. Winter or early spring is the best time for cutting. The Township would have to do the cutting: We hope to mow 1/3 of the Romano tract in April.

5/11/2017

D. **Baseline Monitoring: *No Change***; Future monitoring will be done every other year, & must be done in 2017. The BOS approved renewing the contract with Heritage for baseline monitoring in the future.

Motion to Adjourn- Dale motioned, Neil seconded, unanimous approval.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 9th, 7:00 PM