

Richland Township Preservation Board Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2016
Submitted by Rich Sadler

Members Present

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

A. Minutes

August's minutes approved as written.

B. Financial Report: By our township treasurer, Chuck's estimate, we have about \$305,000 available; 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.

C. Property Reports, Active:

1. Walter & Martha Herrman, 36-039-037, 76 acres on Richhill Rd; The BOS approved applying We were attempting to preserve the property thru the County Natural Areas Program requiring a 50% match from us. Rich B scheduled an appraisal with Indian Valley; it came in at \$8000/acre, \$520,000 for the entire property. Due to an illness in their family, the Hermanns postponed their decision to preserve past the deadline for this year's round of Natural Areas grants. Kathy will ask Kris Kern of Heritage if the county will still give them a grant.

D. Property Reports: Pending Contact / Action: NONE

F. Maintenance policy on Township owned preserved properties: *Tabled until the Spring;* Jim Drennan from Heritage recommends cutting 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: Heritage doesn't do Maintenance. We want to coordinate walking the properties with Heritage's baseline monitoring to outline what areas need to be mowed periodically before asking Richland Township's roadmaster to quote on a maintenance plan.

G. Baseline Monitoring: *No Change* All 30 Properties completed. Six property owners have yet to sign off on their baseline report. Future monitoring will be done every other year, & must be done in 2017. Kathy will contact Heritage to see if their quote for doing baseline monitoring in the future is the same as it's been. Rich B will ask Paul if approving Heritage's contract for monitoring must go before the BOS.

Old Business

- A. Tax extension;** The referendum passed! About 75% of the voters voted for it. We will continue to collect 0.1% of the EIT until June 2023.
- B. ASA; No Change;** Rich B has 3-4 more property owners interested in joining: he'd like to consolidate their approval in one meeting.
- C. Higher quality property signs;** Ten signs have been installed on the Keller, Devry, Casey, McCutcheon, Berger, Wernett & 4 other properties.

1/27/2017

- D. **B.** Rich B posted the open space & Ag Security maps on the Township website, as well as the Preservation Application Form. Kathy will add information on the referendum & Preservation to the website.
- E. We received a reply to Supervisor Orloff's letter asking the Bucks County Planning Commission to reapportion to Richland any funds apportioned to but not used by other townships. They won't give us any extra money right now; The commission is waiting to see what other townships are doing.

New Business

A. Tom Stoneback is talking to the Bonks about preserving their 109 acres on Meadow road (36-29-78) *NO CHANGE*

B. Wernett Property is now the Godshall Property, & Ms. Godshall wants to raise up to 30 Alpacas on it. Animals are not written into the easement agreement as an approved use of preserved land. Following advice from the Bucks county preservation board, Ms. Godshall will write a letter to Dave Johnson proposing that her Alpaca operation be allowed. Kathy will set up a meeting to inform Township manager Paul Stepanoff.

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

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 11, 7:00 PM