

Richland Township Preservation Board Meeting Minutes
August 10, 2016
Submitted by Rich Sadler

Members Present

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

A. Minutes

July'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 & we will cease receiving our 0.1% of the EIT in June 2018 unless the referendum passes. We now have to pay the transfer tax for the easements we've purchased. We owe \$7,000 for the Devry property & will also have to pay this tax on properties preserved this year.

C. Property Reports, Active:

1. Walter & Martha Herrman, 36-039-037, 76 acres on Richhill Rd; The BOS approved applying to the County Natural Areas Program to preserve the property, requiring a 50% match from us. Laura B & Kathy met with the Hermanns to outline the exception area; Rich B scheduled an appraisal with Indian Valley for the end of August.

D. Property Reports: Pending Contact / Action

- 1. Zavitsanos, 36-029-21, 60 acres;** Kathy sent him letter asking if he can wait until next year to see if he moves up the Bucks County Agriculture preservation program list & also to inform him that the Ag Preservation cap has increased to \$12,000/acre. His property is #20 on the list. Laura will ask Rich Harvey if he can be moved up the list.
- 2. Kindri, 36-39-06, 43 acres; No change;** The land is mostly flood plain. Mr. Kindri is donating it to Heritage Conservancy as a bargain sale; The property will be dedicated in July or August.
- 3. Lee Clymer, 36-45-27, 55 acres; NO CHANGE;** Rich B. sent him an Ag Security application. Mr. Clymer contacted Heritage re preservation. Laura B will set up a property walk.

F. Maintenance policy on Township owned preserved properties: *Tabled until the Fall;* 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 Thom Roeder, 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

11/17/2016

Old Business

- A. **Tax extension;** Instead of getting a new bond, we want to extend the lifespan of the earned income tax so we have a steady stream of income. The referendum to extend the 0.1% earned income tax 5 years beyond 2018 is on the 2016 ballot. Kathy made a flyer & will post it on bulletin boards; possible locations include the Q-Mart, Richland Feed, Tractor Supply, Banks, Wal-Mart, supermarkets, Lowes, the library, Melody Lakes, Auto stores, Post Offices, & mailbox quads in developments. She will also ask the Bucks County Herald, Free Press, Penny Power, Morning Call, & the Intelligencer to run an article in support of the referendum. Supervisor Orloff thought we could put out a mailer: Kathy composed it. We went to the BOS asking for funds to cover the mailer's printing & mailing expenses but were turned down. We got funding for mailers from Heritage. Kathy will find out if we can distribute literature in favor of the referendum at polling places on Election Day.
- 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;** Nine signs should be installed by our next meeting. Rich B will go out with the road crew to install the 1st group signs; they will go on the Keller, Devry, Casey, McCutcheon, Berger, Wernett & 6 other properties.
- D. 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. 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.

Motion to Adjourn- Neil motioned, Rich S seconded, unanimous approval.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 7, 2016, 7:00 PM