

Richland Township Preservation Board Meeting Minutes
June 8, 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.

A. Minutes

April's minutes approved as corrected.

B. Financial Report: *No update.* By our township treasurer, Chuck's estimate, we have \$296,591 available & the bond will be paid off in 2018. 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; We'll apply to preserve the property thru the County Natural Areas Program, requiring a 50% match from us. We would have preferred to work thru the Bucks County Agriculture preservation program, requiring no matching funds, but the Hermann property is 36th on the list & the County ag program only funds preservation for the top 10 on the list.

D. Property Reports: Pending Contact / Action

1. **Zavitsanos, 36-029-21, 60 acres;** Kathy will write him letter asking if he can wait until next year to see if he moves up the Bucks County Agriculture preservation program list. His property is #20 on the list. Laura will ask Rich Harvey if he can be moved up the list.
2. **Jones (was Thomson), 39-29-61, Union Road, 17 acres: *No change;*** Kathy sent an application, no response to date.
3. **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.
4. **Lee Clymer, 36-45-27, 55 acres;** Rich B. sent him an Ag Security application. Mr. Clymer contacted Heritage re preservation.

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

10/3/2016

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. She will also ask the Bucks County Herald to run an article in support of the referendum. Supervisor Orloff thought we could put out a mailer: Kathy composed it. We will go to the BOS asking for funds to cover the mailer's printing & mailing expenses. She will also try to get an article published in the Intelligencer.
- 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;** Rich B will go out with the road crew to install the 1st 6 signs; they will go on the Keller, Devry, Casey, McCutcheon, Berger & Wernett 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.
- E. An application for a septic system on Mr. Wukuvitz's property that may encroach on the preserved portion was flagged by Rich B. Rich also contacted Rich Harvey of the County Ag preservation program, since the property was preserved under their program. Rich told them to wait & that they will need an engineer to develop the septic plan. *There has been no change since our last meeting.*

New Business

- A. Tom Stoneback is talking to the Bonks about preserving their 109 acres on Meadow road (36-29-78)

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

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 13, 2016, 7:00 PM