

Richland Township Preservation Board Meeting Minutes
November 11, 2015
Submitted by Rich Sadler

Members Present

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

A. Minutes

September's minutes approved as written.

B. Financial Report: No update. By our township treasurer, Chuck's estimate, we have \$305,609 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; The walk went well, property scored 64. The plan is to go with County Ag program only, since the soil is good (class 2). Laura to report on the Ag application's progress by the end of September.

D. Property Reports: Pending Contact / Action

- 1. Liberty Homes/Metzger, 36-09-102-2 & 36-09-112, 445 Gross road, 96 acres; No Change.** Kathy & Laura Baird walked it in July: some of the property was nice, some not. We'll refer the property to Rich Harvey for Ag Preservation. The 1st step in this process would be to apply for Ag security membership. 2nd. apply for Ag preservation. The property will move up the waiting list if the soils are good
- 2. Zavitsanos, 36-029-21, 60 acres; No Change.** Kathy, Laura, Neil, & Rich walked the property in July. It's mostly farmland, some wood & a stream. Laura thinks it can be preserved under Ag Preservation. The 1st step in this process would be to apply for Ag security membership. 2nd. apply for Ag preservation. The property will move up the waiting list if the soils are good. Laura sent Mr. Zavitsanos a letter reminding him to apply for Ag Security.
- 3. Jones (was Thomson), 39-29-61, Union Road, 17 acres;** Kathy will send an application.

F. Maintenance policy on Township owned preserved properties: Tabled since January

Heritage doesn't do Maintenance. We 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: going well, 28 Properties completed, 2 to go. Some property owners have yet to sign off on their baseline report. Future monitoring will be done every other year

H. Community Day; Most people stopping at our booth were supportive of preservation.

2/29/2016

Old Business

- A. **Tax extension (was New bond):** Instead of getting a new bond, we want to extend the lifespan of the 0.1% earned income tax beyond 2018 so we have a steady stream of income. We will meet with Steve Seachrist to discuss what's involved.
- B. **ASA;** Supervisor Arnold chaired the meeting on November 5th. Mr. Gruver's 2 parcels, Mr. Casey's & Mr. Hermann's properties were added to the ASA, bringing the ASA acreage up to 1155 acres. Mr. Zavitsanos applied too late to join the ASA at this meeting.
- C. **Higher quality property signs;** The board approved ordering 6 signs now & 6 in January 2016 at \$600 per sign. The 1st 6 signs will go on the Keller, Devry, Casey, McCutcheon, Berger & Wernett properties.
- D. **Hunting policy:** The "No Hunting" signs are in; Kathy & Rich S will post them on the Romano tract.
- E. Kathy received no response to her letter asking the Bucks County Planning Commission to reapportion to Richland any funds apportioned to but not used by other townships.
- F. Laura Baird requested that we send a letter of support to Springfield Township about preserving their portion of the Wernett property.
- G. We have concerns about activity on the preserved portion of Mr. Gruver's property.

Motion to Adjourn- Joe motioned, Kathy seconded, unanimous approval.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January, 2015, 7:00 PM