

PENN TOWNSHIP AGRICULTURAL SECURITY AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
March 10, 2016 – 5:30 PM

ATTENDANCE:

Richard Landis
Dale Hershey
Glenn Sauder
Dale Nolt
Stephanie Whitehouse

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Betsy Logan, Director of Community Development and Public Outreach
Stephanie Armpriester, Lancaster Farmland Trust

Call to Order

Richard Landis called the meeting to order at approximately 5:30 PM.

Reorganization

Due to a clarification in the regulations governing Agricultural Security Area Advisory Committee, it came to the attention of the Township staff that the Board of Supervisor member of the Committee was required to be the chair of the committee.

A motion was made by Hershey, seconded by Nolt to appoint Landis as the Chairperson. Motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Nolt, seconded by Sauder to appoint Hershey as Vice-Chairperson. Motion carried 5-0.

There was a discussion on the roles of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Hershey, seconded by Nolt to approve the minutes of the February 18, 2016. Motion carried 5-0.

Continued Discussion of Allowing Preserved Lands Subdivision Rights.

Armpriester reviewed the topic of discussion from the February meeting. The Committee needs to determine whether they will allow the subdivision of a lot after a farm has been preserved. The current Declaration of Restriction allows the construction of one additional dwelling with no subdivision rights. This is inconsistent with the County Agricultural Preservation Board policy. Their policy allows the subdivision of one lot after preservation. Depending on the size of the property, this can be either to create another farm, or to allow a maximum 2-acre dwelling lot.

After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Hershey, seconded by Nolt to recommend the Board of Supervisors allow the Township Preservation Attorney to revise the Declaration of Restriction to be

consistent with the Lancaster County Agricultural Preservation Board's subdivision guidelines standards outlined in their blanket easement agreement. The motion also included that they allow the Committee to review the draft amendment prior to the Board of Supervisor's adopting any revisions. After a roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.

Ranking Criteria for Penn Township for TDR Preservation

The revised criteria were reviewed. A motion was made by Nolt, seconded by Sauder to use the Penn Township Agricultural Preservation Ranking Criteria (dated 2.19.16) to prioritize properties for preservation. A discussion occurred regarding establishing a minimum number of points to receive Township funds for preservation. At this time, a minimum number will not be determined until more farms can be reviewed. Logan will provide a spreadsheet of preserved farms and potential farms to assist in determining a number. The motion carried 5-0.

Farmland Trust Preservation: 577 Warehouse Road, 84.9 acres

Logan clarified how previous funds have been distributed for plain sect farmers. It was the consensus of the Committee to continue to have the funds go through LFT when needed, in deference to religious practices.

Other Business

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 12, 2016 at 5:30 pm.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Nolt and seconded Hershey by to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:15 PM. The motion passed unanimously.