

**PENN TOWNSHIP AGRICULTURAL SECURITY AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**January 12, 2023 – 7:00 PM**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Richard Landis, Board of Supervisors & Chairman  
Darvin Myer  
Dale Nolt  
Glen Sauder  
Jared Bruckhart

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Jennifer Tulonen, Township Planner  
Jeff Graybill  
Matt Knepper, Lan. Co. Ag. Preserve Board

**Call to Order**

Mr. Landis called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**Introductions**

Jeff Graybill was present to discuss roles in the upcoming Farmer Appreciation Event.

Matt Knepper was present to discuss the farm preservation petition for the Myer farm located at 2192-A Airy Hill Road, Penn Lake Estates.

**Previous Meeting Minutes**

After review of the December 8, 2022 meeting minutes, Chair Landis asked for a motion of approval. Myer made a motion to approve the minutes as written, and Sauder seconded them. The motion passed unanimously.

**New Business**

Matt Knepper was present to discuss the farm preservation petition for Penn Lake Estates, Myer farm on Airy Hill Road. The Ag. Preserve Board has had the petition on file since 2003, but due to yearly shuffling of petitions with the county, the preservation process was never able to be completed. Change in ownership renewed the preservation process for the Myer family.

The farm is about 57 acres in size. It is ranked 66/170 per the Ag. Preserve Board's criteria such as size, proximity to other preserved farms, slope, and soil. It is currently in the Penn Township Agricultural Security Area and is zoned Agriculture.

Knepper discussed the Township's role in how to expedite the preservation process through a monetary contribution, moving a farm to "the top of the list".

Chair Landis asked if the committee had additional questions or comments. Hearing none, he asked for a motion. A motion was made by Nolt to recommend to the Penn Township Board of Supervisors the farm for Penn Lake Estates/Myer be preserved. Sauder seconded. The vote was 4-0, Myer recused.

Darvin Myer (petitioner) recused himself from the room for the remainder of the discussion.

Chair Landis expressed interest in having the Township contribute monetarily to the preservation of Penn Lake Estates. Knepper explained that Penn Township similarly contributed in 2020/2021 for a farm on Mountain Road, at about \$1,000/acre with a \$50,000 maximum.

Chair Landis asked if the committee had additional questions or comments. Hearing none, he asked for a motion. A motion was made by Nolt to recommend to the Penn Township Board of Supervisors the farm for Penn Lake Estates/Myer receive a monetary contribution consistent with recent Penn Township contributions for the maximum amount of \$50,000. Bruckhart seconded. The vote was 4-0, Myer recused.

Matt Knepper thanked the committee and left the meeting. Myer returned.

**Discussion Items**

Jeff Graybill presented a powerpoint for the Farmer Appreciation Event. He will work on confirming some numbers and minor changes. The committee thanked him for his work. Jeff Graybill left the meeting.

Jennifer laid out a schedule for February 9:

- Set up: 4:30-5:30, Manheim Farm Show – Jennifer + ASA members
- 5:30-6:00, begin welcoming guests – Jennifer + ASA members
- 6:05, Ben Bruckhart (Chairman of Penn Township BOS) – Welcome
- 6:05, Richard Landis (Chairman of Penn Township ASAAC) – Introduce Jeff
- 6:06-6:26, Jeff Graybill presentation
- 6:27, Richard Landis, Prayer
- 6:30, Dinner
- 7:45-8:00, Dale Nolt, Final Remarks, Thank-you
  - Ask a few folks to stay behind to help clean up

Jennifer will email the schedule to the members.

Jennifer showed additional photos submitted by Jared Bruckhart. The photo slideshow of all photos will run in a loop at the meeting.

Jennifer updated the committee on the low number of RSVP. It is consistent with other events and last year's dinner. ASAAC members will remind neighbors and friends to respond. Jennifer will print 10 invitations and the RSVP list for each member.

Catering is confirmed. The committee discussed centerpieces. Last year, the event was in the summer, so flowers were donated by Jared's wife. Richard Landis volunteered to take care of the centerpieces.

#### **New Business**

There was no new business.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM on a motion from Nolt and a second from Sauder.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 9, 2023 at 7:00 PM at Penn Township Municipal Building.