

PENN TOWNSHIP AGRICULTURAL SECURITY AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
September 11, 2025 – 7:00 PM

ATTENDANCE:

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

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Jennifer Tulonen, Township Planner

Call to Order

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

Introductions

Vincent Pompo, Attorney for Applicant Petition

Previous Meeting Minutes

After review of the March 13, 2025 meeting minutes, Chair Landis asked for a motion of approval. Myer made a motion to approve and Nolt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Decision Items

- **Application of 581 Auction Road**, Tax ID 5001464700000 for: Commitment of Funding to Facilitate Farmland Preservation, Recommendation of Approval

Jennifer T. presented to the ASAAC the petition for 581 Auction Road. Jennifer T. included a timeline of approvals from the Penn Township Planning Commission and Penn Township ASAAC spanning from April 2024 when the petition was received to present-day. The petition is being processed with the Lancaster County Agricultural Preserve Board (LCAPB) and has received favorable recommendations for preservation from all bodies at Penn Township. Penn Township has budgeted and allocated funding from its Agricultural Preserve fund for the preservation of this farm; but the motion for recommendation of commitment of funding was not evident in prior ASAAC meeting minutes that staff could identify or locate.

A motion was made by Bruckhart that the Penn Township ASAAC recommends the Penn Township Board of Supervisors commit a monetary contribution of \$50,000 be allocated to facilitate preservation of the farm located at 581 Auction Road currently owned by Micheal and Kelly Cassel. The motion was seconded by Myer; the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Items

- **Application of 1691 Junction Road**, Add Approximately +-123 acres to Penn Township's Existing Agricultural Security Area, Tax ID: 5004913900000

Jennifer T. introduced the materials as submitted to the ASAAC. Atty. Pompo was introduced by Chair Landis and led the remainder of discussion for the petition of 1691 Junction Road.

The petition for the property is unique that some acres (<1acre) is depicted on Lancaster County GIS maps as located within East Hempfield Township, but the vast majority of the farm – 123 acres – is located within Penn Township. Property owners are interested in pursuing preservation of the farm, but have not made a decision on which Lancaster County entity (Lancaster Farmland Trust or LCAPB) to pursue the process with; discussions with both entities and the property owners are ongoing. One of the issues arising out of the acreage depicted within E. Hempfield is the fact a petition would need to be processed in E. Hempfield for the inclusion of that acreage or the property can be preserved with the majority (123 acres with the LCAPB) and the inclusion of the lesser acreage is automatically included.

The ASAAC had questions on timeline the property owners are considering for preservation, and Atty. Pompo expects a petition may be filed in 2026.

A motion was made by Myer to further the petition to the Penn Township Planning Commission for review. The motion was seconded by Sauder; the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

- **Agricultural Security Area Advisory Committee (ASAAC) Sponsored Scholarship**

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Bruckhart to not proceed further with the establishment of a scholarship through the Agricultural Security Area Advisory Committee (ASAAC) due to legal issues and ramifications as outlined by the Penn Township Solicitor's letter dated February 28, 2025. The motion was seconded by Sauder; the motion passed unanimously.

- **Farmer Appreciation Event**

Jennifer T. updated the committee regarding the previously discussed time and day for the event: Thursday February 5, 2026 6-8PM. The Manheim Farm Show is unavailable, and **Tuesday, February 3, 2026 6-8PM** was proposed as an alternate. Jennifer will confirm with the Manheim Farm Show availability.

Jennifer T. will work with the committee on details for invitations at the 11/13/2025 meeting. RSVP returns were better when invitations were sent closer to the date of the event; giving invitees about 1 month notice. Staff would expect to send final invitations soon after the 2026 new year. Items to confirm at the November meeting regarding invitations:

- Photo for invitation cover
- Text
- Invite list

Jennifer T. will contact Peter's BBQ for catering after the Farm Show confirms the date of the event. Approximately \$1,300 was spent in 2025 for the caterer, Jennifer T. expects that value to be slightly higher for 2026. A similar menu will be chosen from available options as previous years.

- Drinks/Ice cream were not addressed as part of the 9/11/25 meeting (2025 donation, Kreider Farms will be contacted again)
- Dessert table was not addressed as part of the 9/11/25 meeting (2025 purchase through local bakers, Dale Nolt will be asked to coordinate again)

After discussion, the centerpieces will be sponsored by Haldeman Mills.

Speakers were discussed in great detail. The committee discussed options and will prefer 3-4 local (Penn Township), agricultural invitees to speak for about 10 minutes. **A powerpoint/visual aid is highly encouraged by staff** similar to Jay Lehman's Sunflower Journey. The committee encourages speakers to bring products/examples to highlight during the speaking opportunity and should focus on how they became involved in agriculture or "found their calling" or niche of farming that is unique; not a sales pitch.

- Jared Bruckhart, ASAAC member – seed production and crop protection; Chemgro (confirmed)
- Dennis Lehman – Old Springhouse Bison Farm
- Sean Haldeman – quail Farm
- Richard Landis – ASAAC member – grain production, mill; Haldeman Mills (backup)

Possible speaker opportunities for 2027 or additional alternatives:

- My Daughter's Flower Patch (<https://www.mydaughtersflowerpatch.com>) 90 Hossler Road (Rapho Twp.)
- Keller Farms – organic farming (Penn Township)
- Sean Haldeman – half hatch duck

New Business

- No new business was discussed.

Communications

- Lancaster Farmland Trust Preservation – Update provided to the ASAAC from the LFT
- USDA Notification for Heat and Drought – Notification given to the members; ASAAC members communicated that the USDA directly notifies them of these kinds of programs, so the Township does not need to duplicate those efforts.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 PM on a motion from Sauder and a second from Myer.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 13, 2025 at 7:00 PM at Penn Township Municipal Building.