

CHESTER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD
June 23, 2015 MINUTES

1. Call to Order –

Chairman Melba Matthews called the June 23, 2015 meeting of the Agricultural Land Preservation Board (ALPB) to order at 2:03 p.m. in Room 170, GSC.

The following Board Members were in attendance: Melba Matthews, Chairperson; Richard Abbott; Donald Cairns; John Diament; and Eli Silberman.

Staff: William Gladden, Director; Tom Abrahamsen, Solicitor; Geoffrey Shellington; Veronica Protesto; Margaret Hodgkiss-Lilly; and Annette Bethke.

Absent: Mark Dunphy, Duane Hershey, Amy McKenna, and Bill Covalesski.

Visitors: Rich and Betty Esh

2. Public Comment -

No public comment.

3. Approval of Minutes – May 26, 2015

The Board meeting minutes were approved as sent. Motion made by Richard Abbott, seconded by Eli Silberman. Motion carried.

4. Subdivision Requests

Esh/Yoder farm

Veronica Protesto presented the proposal and then introduced Richard Esh who answered questions from the Board. The Esh/Yoder Farm is currently split into 6 parcels with a total acreage of 209.9974 and is surrounded by eased farms. The owners are requesting that the Board approve a parcel line change between two of the parcels; the house right will not be on either of these parcels. Lot 1 is currently 74.7 acres and will be increased to 102.45 acres and lot 2 is currently 43 acres and will decrease to 15.25 acres.

After a discussion, the Board determined that Lot 1 and Lot 2 configured as requested would continue to be economically viable for farming given the soils and surrounding agricultural operations. The Board accepted the Esh/Yoder's request to make a parcel line change of the Highland Township 209.9974 easement to increase lot 1 to 102.45 acres and to decrease lot 2 to 15.25 acres and to submit the request to the State Board for their approval.

Motion by John Diament, second by Don Cairns. Motion carried.

J. Renwick Kerr Trust

Margaret Hodgkiss-Lilly presented the proposal and noted that the Kerr Trust is requesting that the Board approve a subdivision of their 144.064 acre state easement into 2 lots. Lot 1 will consist of 91.0603 acres including the entire 10.301 acre exception area on which sits a house and barns; the trust will retain ownership of this lot. Lot 2 will consist of 53.0037 acres of eased land; this lot will consist of an additional house right and be sold to Roy Jackson, an adjacent landowner.

After a discussion, the Board accepted the J. Renwick Kerr Trust's request to subdivide the West Marlborough Township 144.064 easement into two lots consisting of a 97.0603 acre portion including 10.301 acre exception area and a 53.0037 acre of eased land with a house right to be sold to an adjacent landowner and to submit the subdivision to the State Board for their approval.

Motion by Richard Abbott, second by Eli Silberman. Motion carried.

5. State Agricultural Conservation Easement Program – Status Report

2012 Round – 50% Donation

#1 Pannell, Bootsie ----- Offer Accepted – Londonderry Township
#4 Pannell Revocable Trust ----- Offer Accepted – Londonderry Township

2013 Round

#55 King, Levi and Emma ----- Offer Accepted – West Sadsbury Township
#58 Shantz Family ----- Offer Accepted – East Vincent Township

2014 Round

#1 Tighe Family ----- Offer Accepted – East Nottingham Township
#2 Stoltzfus, Chester and Rebecca ----- Offer Accepted – Honey Brook Township
#3 Umble, Kenneth and Marilyn ----- Offer Rejected – W Sadsbury/W Fallowfield
4 Martin, Noah and Rachel ----- Offer Accepted – Honey Brook Township
#5 Kolle, John ----- Offer Accepted – Warwick Township
#7 Beam, Nelson and Marilyn ----- Offer Accepted – West Nantmeal Township
#9 Subach, Beth ----- Offer Accepted – West Nottingham Township
#10 Herr Foods, Inc. ----- Offer Accepted – West Nottingham Township
11 Brown Partnership #1 ----- Offer Rejected – New London Township
#14 Lapp, Samuel and Barbara ----- Offer Accepted – Honey Brook Township
#23 Stoltzfus, Steven and Sylvia ----- Offer Accepted – East Nottingham Township
#24 Brown Partnership #3 ----- Offer Accepted – Lower Oxford Township
#25 Mower, Cory and Megan ----- Offer Accepted – North/South Coventry Twps
#36 Brown Partnership #2 ----- Offer Accepted – Upper Oxford Township
#38 Elvin, Roger ----- Offer Extended – Newlin & East Marlborough Townships

2015 Round

Warwick Yoder LP ----- Board Review – Warwick Township

6. Challenge Grant Program – Status Report

2014 Round

#33 Klotzbach, Frederick and Elizabeth ----- Offer Accepted – London Grove Township
#41 Elliot, Ronald ----- Offer Extended – East Coventry Township

7. Updates and Other Business –

- The County Commissioners’ have appointed Bill Covaleski to the ALPB Board to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Judy Noyalas.

8. Executive Session –

- Appraisals (1)

9. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 2:29 p.m. Motion to adjourn made by Eli Silberman, seconded by Richard Abbott. Motion carried.

10. Next Meeting – July 28, 2015 at 2:00 PM, room 170, GSC.