

CHESTER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD
FEBRUARY 23, 2016 MINUTES

1. Call to Order –

Chairman Melba Matthews called the February 23, 2016 meeting of the Agricultural Land Preservation Board (BOARD) to order at 2:02 p.m. in Room 170, GSC.

The following Board Members were in attendance: Melba Matthews, Chairman; Richard Abbot; Donald Cairns; Duane Hershey; Amy McKenna; and Eli Silberman.

Staff: Tom Abrahamsen, Solicitor; Bill Gladden, DOSP Director; Geoffrey Shellington; Veronica Protesto; and Annette Bethke.

Absent: John Diament, Mark Dunphy, and Bill Covaleski

Visitors: None

2. Public Comment -

No public comment.

3. Approval of Minutes – January 26, 2016

The Board meeting minutes were approved as sent. Motion made by Amy McKenna, seconded by Duane Hershey. Motion carried.

4. State Agricultural Conservation Easement Program – Status Report

2012 Round – 50% Donation

Pannell, Bootsie	-----	Offer Accepted – Londonderry Township
Pannell Revocable Trust	-----	Offer Accepted – Londonderry Township

2014 Round

Stoltzfus, Ben	-----	Offer Extended – Honey Brook Township
King, Omar	-----	Offer Extended – West Caln Township

2015 Round

Brown Partnership #1	-----	Offer Accepted – New London Township
McDowell, Elizabeth	-----	Offer Accepted – New London Township
Jones, Pownall	-----	Offer Extended – New Garden Township
King, Clair	-----	Offer Extended – Upper Oxford Township
Breckbill, Richard	-----	Offer Extended – Upper/Lower Oxford Townships
Bush #1	-----	Offer Extended – W. Fallowfield Township
Bush #2	-----	Offer Extended – W. Fallowfield Township
Coates, Eric	-----	Offer Extended – E. Nottingham Township
Manfredi, Rocco	-----	Offer Extended – New Garden Township
Miller Farm LP	-----	Offer Extended – W. Nantmeal Township
Stoltzfus, Isaac	-----	Offer Extended – Honey Brook Township

5. Challenge Grant Program – Status Report

2014 Round

Kulp, Edward	-----	Offer accepted – North Coventry Township
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2015 Round

Pyle, Thomas	-----	Offer Extended – Warwick Township
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6. Updates and Other Business –

- Amy McKenna reported that Newlin Township has initiated a referendum for an Open Space Preservation tax.

- Bill Gladden reported the County Commissioners certified just over \$4.6 million to the Commonwealth Bureau of Farmland Preservation in January and the Commonwealth has pledged roughly \$3.6 million to preserve Chester County farmland through the Commonwealth Program. Chester County has certified more funds and received more state funds than any other county for this year.

In addition, for 2015, Chester County ranked third in the number of farms preserved in the state and fourth in the number of acres in the State's preservation program over the entire life of the program. When the Challenge Grant figures are added, Chester County remains fourth in the number of acres preserved; however, the county moves up in the number of farms preserved. The top three counties for number of farms preserved are Berks, Lancaster, and Chester. Chester County, however, averaged a higher acreage average per preserved farm at 91 acres.

Mr. Gladden recognized and thanked the Board for their time and effort that made the County's farm preservation work possible.

Amy McKenna requested the information be sent to her to be used in farm recruitment activities.

7. Executive Session –

- Legal Matters: Compliance (1)
- Real Estate: Appraisals (3)

8. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m. Motion to adjourn made by Eli Silberman, seconded by Richard Abbott. Motion carried.

9. Next Meeting – March 22, 2016 at 2:00 PM, room 250, GSC.