1. Call to Order:
Chairman Melba Matthews called the March 23, 2021 meeting of the Agricultural Land Preservation Board (ALPB) to order at 2:04 p.m. via WebEx Video Conference.

The following Board Members were in attendance: Chairman Melba Matthews, Vice-Chairman Donald Cairns, Eli Silberman, Bill Covaleski, Amy McKenna, Nelson Beam and Richard Abbott. Absent were Members John Diament and Duane Hershey.

Staff Present: Dave Stauffer, Geoffrey Shellington and Sue Goughary.

Visitors: No visitors attended.

2. Public Comment: No public attended.

3. Approval of Minutes: The Board meeting minutes from February 23, 2021 were approved as written. A motion was made by Richard Abbott, seconded by Bill Covaleski. Motion carried.

4. State Ag. Easement Program – Status Report:

*2016 Round*

McElhenny, David – Settled Easement – Honey Brook
Newswanger, Larry – Offer Accepted – Sadsbury

*2018 Round*

Angelo J. Zunino Limited Partnership – Settled Easement – New Garden
Hendricks, Louise – Offer Extended – East Marlborough
Kelsall, Virginia – Settled Easement – Newlin
Martin, Thomas, Helen & Barbara – Offer Accepted - West Marlborough
Morelli, Thomas – Revised Offer Accepted – East Nantmeal
Petersheim, Christ & Martha – Offer Accepted – West Caln
Smullen et al. – Offer Accepted – Lower Oxford Township

*2019 Round*
Beiler, Elam & Lydia – Offer Accepted – West Sadsbury
Buchanan, John S. – Settled Easement – Elk
Brown Partnership – Offer Extended – Penn
Cole, Mark & Claudia – Settled Easement - Penn
DiPierro, Joseph & Sonia/Schofield, Michelle – Settled Easement - West Fallowfield
Donze, George & Jane – Offer Accepted– East Marlborough
High, Corrine – Offer Rejected – North Coventry
King, Daniel & Rachel #2 – Offer Accepted –Lower & Upper Oxford
King, David & Katie – Offer Accepted – Lower Oxford
Martin, Phillip – Offer Extended – Lower Oxford
Miller, Benuel & Hannah – Offer Accepted– E. Nantmeal
Ramsey, Stewart & Wendy – Settled Easement - Upper Oxford
Robinson, Howard & Janet – Offer Extended – Upper & Lower Oxford
Stauffer, Terry & Nancy – Offer Accepted – West Fallowfield
Stoltzfus, Daniel F. & Sadie – Offer Accepted– Honey Brook
Stoltzfus, Emanuel & Fannie – Offer Accepted– West Nantmeal
Stoltzfus, Jonas & Deborah #2 – Settled Easement – Honey Brook
Stoltzfus, Jonas & Annie – Offer Accepted – West Nottingham
Wickersham, Earle – Settled Easement – Newlin & East Marlborough
Wickersham, George – Settled Easement - Pocopson
Wickersham, Same - Offer Accepted – Newlin & Pocopson

*2020 Round*

Engle, Doug and Jessica – Board Review – Londonderry & Upper Oxford

5. **Challenge Grant Program – Status Report:**

**CHALLENGE GRANT PROGRAM – STATUS REPORT**

*2019 Round*

Lukas, Gregory & Patricia – Offer Accepted – Honey Brook
Sheppard, Jonathan –Offer Accepted – London Grove
Springsteen, Susan – Offer Extended – West Nantmeal and Honey Brook
Spring Hope Family, LP – Offer Accepted – East Nottingham

6. **Executive Session**

   a. **Real Estate: Appraisals (1)**

7. **Updates and Other Business** - Chairman Melba Matthews noted that today was National Agriculture Day. She attended the Chester County Agricultural Economic Development Council’s second Strategic Plan Meeting to discuss people, places and businesses throughout the County that the Council would like to partner with and/or interview in order to bring more attention to Chester County’s lesser known farms and farmers. The Council also discussed meeting with students of local agricultural programs to learn about the concerns of the next generation of young farmers.
Member Amy McKenna inquired as to the preservation of local township parks versus designated open space and whether or not the townships parks are eased or required to remain public parks in perpetuity. The Parks + Preservation Department Director Dave Stauffer noted that funding would certainly play a role as certain conservation groups that fund or help to fund such projects typically require a deed restriction that would prohibit the park from ever being sold for development. He also noted that even where there is not an easement or grant in place, often the parks and recreation areas that were purchased and designated for public use are protected by the Public Trust Doctrine. Further, any County funds use for any park or recreation area would be required to have a deed restriction in place. It was asked if there was an informational source to determine which township or municipal parks are preserved or have deed restrictions and which do not but it was determined that such information would likely need to be collected from various sources, but our office will do additional research on the matter and confirm.

Member Bill Covaleski informed the Board that he also serves on the board for the Chester County Conference & Visitors Bureau and that a report commissioned by the Bureau in 2019 shows that Chester County has a great potential for more agrotourism and offers an opportunity for local growers and encourage younger farmers to connect directly with their consumers. Bill also noted that on April 24, 2021 there will be stream clean up on the East Branch of the Brandywine coordinated by the Brandywine Red Clay Alliance and anyone interested should reach out to him for more information.

Member Nelson Beam inquired as to whether or not mass mailings could, or should be sent to local uneased, qualifying farms with information regarding Ag Preservation and it was noted by Geoff Shellington that the Parks + Preservation Department does in fact send out informational letters in the summer months of every year in preparation for the August application due date.

8. Adjournment:
ALPB Meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m.
A motion was made by Nelson Beam, seconded by Richard Abbott. Motion carried.

9. Next Meeting – April 27, 2021 at 2:00 PM - Virtual via Zoom Video Conference