

Williams Township Land Preservation Board

Minutes, October 27, 2020 Virtual Meeting

Present: Bob Schmidt, Ron Hinehline, Jim Williams, Ron Reichard, Linda Heindel
Supervisors: Ray Abert, Mark Ernst
Township Manager: Mikal Sabatine

Chairman Schmidt opened the meeting at 7:01 pm. He called for a review of the September 22, 2020 minutes. Hinehline moved to approve (2nd Schmidt); motion passed 5-0.

Updates

Russell – Laura Baird, Heritage Conservancy consultant, reported that the easement document has moved from Sherry Acevedo to Atty. Corriere, County solicitor. Russell asked for settlement after January 1, 2021. Acevedo will let us know when the date is set. The County grant money continues. The project will require a finalized Agreement of Sale.

Wharen – Schmidt had informed Wharen that LPB did not vote to recommend the project to the Supervisors. Wharen had emailed with a simple question calling for an explanation. Hinehline was asked to write a letter in response, explaining the concerns LPB had about several facets of the property.

Boss – Baird expressed a level of concern about the amount of logging Boss proposed to carry out on his property, so Baird contacted the logger, John Regan, who has agreed to meet with LPB and Baird when he returns. Baird will ask him to set up some dates agreeable to LPB. Baird agreed to contact the Bosses about the number of trees involved in the logging and proposes to talk with Regan about it. Re PNDI, there is no more information about the “unknown species”. Possibly Regan should be consulted about this aspect also. Williams will call Boss to update him on the status quo.

Heindel questioned who constitutes “the County” when LPB is informed that the County does not want properties with small acreage or does want greater public access; is it a single person declaring the guidelines or is there public input?

O’Brien – had emailed Baird about changing the level of protection (as shown on Baird’s map) of a strip of land between Deemer Rd., and their driveway, regarding moving the strip from highest protection to a lower level to accommodate caprine husbandry to eat invasives. Baird recommended that the portion be kept in the highest level but to require a management plan. Heindel suggested consulting with goat-owners who have actually done this to learn about appropriate species and kinds of plants consumed. Baird will contact O’Brien about a resource management plan.

Schmidt noted that the next step with this project is to choose an appraiser (Indian Valley @ \$2600 chosen, Frederick @ \$2800 not chosen). Motion (Hinehline, 2nd Williams) approved 5-0, to ask the BOS to spend the money for the appraisal.

Sabatine reported that the Nehoda grant funds have been returned to the County.

The party who inquired of Schmidt – Heindel called him, explained difference between farmland preservation and open space/natural resources preservation, urged him to talk to Maria Bentzoni, urged him to attend our virtual meeting and to include his family members who will be involved with the property. Schmidt will make an attempt at contact.

Discussion of the AOS (Agreement of Sale) document – after questioning the timing in the process, the amount of education of the prospective preserver, the group agreed to Heindel’s motion (2nd Reichard) to recommend to the BOS to adopt the AOS document and to inform BOS how it will be used; motion was approved 5-0.

Treasurer’s Report – Hinehline circulated the report. Schmidt noted that it was not significantly different from the last report. Bal. in the Open Space account -- \$2,023,092.29.

Announcements – Sabatine stated that the BOS ordered remaining township meetings for 2020 will be virtual. The date for the LPB virtual meeting will be November 24.

Schmidt stated that he will agree to another term in 2021 but will not serve as chair after 2021.

Audience comments – none

The meeting was adjourned on motion (moved Heindel 2nd Schmidt) at 8:07 pm.

Submitted,

Linda Heindel, Secretary

Next Meeting: November 24, 2020, 7 pm