

Williams Township Land Preservation Board (LPB)

Minutes July 25, 2023

Williams Township Community Building

655 Cider Press Rd., Easton, PA 18042

An Executive Session was held at 6:40 PM to discuss a potential recommendation to the Board of Supervisors.

Present: Bob Schmidt, Ken Kodama, Lorraine Mineo, Tom Heilman, and Lori Cox; Alternate Polly Clark; Supervisor Ray Abert; and township residents

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Bob Schmidt at 7:03 PM.

He called for the Pledge of Allegiance, then a review of the June 27, 2023 minutes. Motion to approve the minutes made by Kodama, seconded by Mineo. Approved 5-0.

Updates on Preservation Projects:

- 2022-2-Morgan Hill: During the June 2023 LPB meeting, the property owners informed the LPB that they wish to preserve their lower parcel first. The previous Land Preservation Application was for the entire property (upper and lower parcels) and it is unclear if the owners need to reapply or if the application can be amended, which the board will look into. Also, the lower parcel needs to be scored independently since the initial scoring was for both parcels. Schmidt will contact the owners to set up a meeting to discuss rescoring. Mineo will contact Sherry Acevedo at Northampton County to inform her that the owners wish to preserve the lower parcel first and inquire about the County's interest.
- 2023-1 Steely Hill: Heritage Conservancy (Heritage) had written up the Agreement of Sale (AOS). The property owners' attorney then contacted the Township about two changes to the AOS and LPB is unsure what the request was. The AOS ended up being tabled at the Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting since the owners' attorney was not in agreement. Schmidt has outreached the Township's office staff for information from the Township Solicitor on this. Regarding the Met-Ed easement, Heritage's attorney still wants the width of the easement in writing.
- 2023-2 Raubsville Road: Schmidt had a geological question and Kodama will review maps and may have one to share with Schmidt. LPB also discussed scoring adjustments to the property based on wetlands/streams, geology, and wildlife. There was a discussion about adjusting the property score due to the fence which has been installed since the first time the owners applied. It was noted that the property was scored using the old system. Schmidt also shared that US Fish and Wildlife recommends owners voluntarily have a buffer around waterways (50 feet from streams, 100 feet from wetlands) to preserve water quality as well as having owners contact them if they plan to remove or trim invasives. LPB would like to meet with the owners to go over the new property score. Mineo will set up the meeting with the owners and outreach to Acevedo to see if she would like to attend since Northampton county was interested in this project when the application was first made.

Old Business:

- Heilman made a motion to recommend Michael Cortright to the BOS, seconded by Mineo, approved 5-0.
- Schmidt reviewed that the previous LPB Chairperson had started the process to get a preservation sign for the Russell property. The sign needs to have acknowledgements for Heritage and Northampton County. Heritage was changing their logo and wanted LPB to hold off. Schmidt had received quotes from Fast Signs since that is who the Township uses. Schmidt will follow up on this.

- The previous LPB Chairperson started the process to get an updated map of the preserved properties in the township. In the last BOS's meeting, they approved the purchase of a large format printer for the Township office. Schmidt said that we can ask to have a map printed by the office staff when they receive the printer.
- Regarding the forestry management plan, Mineo had contacted the Township office recently but did not hear back yet. There was discussion about how the BOS renewed Heritage's contract in the last meeting. The township also got a new Zoning Officer who now has a copy of all the preserved properties in the township. LPB is unsure how the preserved properties will be checked for timbering and cleanup compliance. There was a question about whether the new timbering ordinance was with the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission. Abert, who was in the audience, stated that the ordinance was supposed to be sent to the LPB for review. Schmidt will follow up with the Township office.

New Business:

Treasurer's Report: Mineo shared the LPB Financial Report for June 2023. Checking account \$6,326.81, savings account \$258,875.84, CD \$1,500,000.00, total \$1,765,202.65.

Announcements: Schmidt announced that on September 16, 2023 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM will be the annual Fry's Run Watershed Family Fun event (rain date September 17, 2023).

Comments from audience: None

Meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM. Kodama moved, Schmidt seconded. Unanimous approval.

Next meeting August 22, 2023 @ 7:00 PM, Williams Township Community Building.

Submitted,

Lori Cox, Secretary