

## **Minutes of Meeting**

Augusta Township Farmland Preservation Board

Date: May 10, 2018

Time: 6:00 PM

Place: Augusta Township Hall

### **Members Present:**

Sue Jantschak, Sylvia Taylor, Susan Burek, Heidi Graham, Wes Mallonen

**Members Absent:** Elizabeth Waffle, Shane Lehto

**Call to Order:** 6:08 PM

**Consideration of March meeting notes:** No approval needed as official minutes weren't taken in March

**Public Comment:** Dale Lin Mallonen brought aerial photos of her parent's property, 7685 and 7691 Judd Rd under the Davidson Trust and they are curious about the possibility of getting an agricultural easement and submitting an application for potential purchase of development rights. 12 acres of the land are tillable.

As part of due diligence, the Farmland Preservation Board needs to write up an informational sheet that can be sent out with the tax bills inviting residents in our township to apply for Purchase of Development Rights.

**Additional Agenda Items to Add:** Possible PDR Applicant, Board question on town hall landscaping

**Financial Status-Susan Burek:** We currently have approximately \$41K built up in our budget

**Upcoming Event: Bus Tour:** The 8th Annual Greenbelt Bus Tour will be held on Saturday June 2nd, 2018, from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. The tour will depart from the Pioneer High School Park & Ride lot promptly at 10:00 AM. To register, please RSVP by May 25th, either via email to [greenbelt@a2gov.org](mailto:greenbelt@a2gov.org), or call 734-794-6210 ext. 42798. Cost for the tour is \$10.

**Updates; Possible donation of Paint Creek floodplain land:** The Broderick family whose property borders the parcel is waiting to hear from the donor's lawyer about purchasing a few acres of the parcel first before arrangements are made with the township.

**Correspondence: County Invitation: Connecting Counties Communities Initiative:** Grant money may be available through the Connecting Communities Initiative to help fund a park in our Township. A potential site location is on an existing township-owned property near Lincoln Schools on Willis Road and a trail could be located that ran from Brick Elementary School to the park. The superintendent of schools is supportive of the idea. We were told that 70k grants were readily available. Estimates from Mr. Coy Vaughn, Director of the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission, based on past experience is that it would cost 10-20K to hire a Professional Planner to submit a grant proposal for the amount of 70k. The grant money would help fund the site work for the park. A park in this locality

would be a perfect setting for a future farmers market. A grant proposal would need to be submitted by August and needs Township Board approval prior to that. The grant program is an ongoing one and if we don't meet the deadline this year we would have future opportunities. Right now the Farmland Preservation Board has already pledged all our funds to other projects, however, we have the option to write a letter of interest or attend a future board meeting to see if the Township Board is interested in funding a Planner to create and submit a Grant Proposal. Farmland Preservation Board members will plan on attending the next Township Board Meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM to probe the Board for interest in this idea.

**Possible PDR application:** Jeff Selter, a farmer in our township is planning sometime in the next year to buy a 140 acre farm parcel and is curious about putting 110 acres into a PDR program. He spoke with Bill Tobler and inquired about our township's Purchase of Development Rights Program. Bill suggested that Jeff talk with Sylvia Taylor about various program options and potentially attend next month's Farmland Preservation Board Meeting.

**Town Hall Landscaping:** The Township Board asked our committee for ideas about landscaping in front of the town hall to replace the day lilies. They were looking into purchasing various shrubs of different colors to put in their place. Committee members shared ideas with Susan who will take them back to the Board.

Meeting adjourned at 7:38 PM