

Minutes of Meeting

Augusta Township Farmland Preservation Board

Date: May 11, 2017

Time: 6:00 PM

Place: Augusta Township Hall

Members Present:

Sue Jantschak, Sylvia Taylor, Elizabeth Waffle, Heidi Graham , Gita Posselt, Shane Lehto (6:21 PM)

Members Absent:

Susan Burek

Call to Order: 6:10 PM

Consideration of April 13 Minutes: Jantschak moved to pass the minutes as written, Waffle seconded the motion. All in favor.

Additional agenda items: Question on if Burek had taken the Farmland Preservation Board's updated action plan to the Township Board of Trustees for approval. It has not been taken to the board as yet.

Public Comment: None

Correspondences:

Chair Taylor welcomed Gita Posselt as the newest member of the Farmland Preservation Board.

The board received news of the resignation of Dale-Lin Mallonen. Posselt will prepare a thank you card to be sent to her.

Update of Augusta Township's participation in a collaborative PDR block grant pre-proposal: Augusta Township anticipates being able to contribute \$50,000 in cash and \$5,000 in kind (time) to the county collaborative PDR program. The following information was sent to Ruth Thornton, the county coordinator for the PDR block grant: "Augusta Township has had a PDR ordinance and a master plan overlay which designates most of the Township as agricultural for many years without closing on a PDR property. A small millage that will bring in about \$20,000 a year was passed in 2016. It is the hope of our seven member Farmland Preservation Committee that we will at last be able to leverage easements for farmers wishing to participate." The announcement of which pre-proposals have been selected will come out the week of June 26 and full proposals will be due August 31.

Upcoming Greenbelt PDR properties bus tour: Saturday, June 10th is an opportunity to tour the county via bus and view properties that currently have conservation easements and speak with property owners about their experience. The cost is \$10 per person.

Other items from members: Posselt questioned the owner of and the plan for a large 1800 acre parcel in our township. Next Era Energy has a proposal (Sugar Creek Solar Energy) to buy a portion of the land

which was rezoned to white industrial. A concern is that the zoning was not conditional so if the solar farm abandons their plan, the land would still be zoned white industrial.

Chair Taylor invited board members to think about if we want to plan any events for this year.

Motion by Graham to add June & July meetings back to the online schedule. Seconded by Waffle. All in favor. Bill Tobler will add June & July monthly meetings back to the schedule online.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:22 PM