

Luzerne County Farmland Preservation Board

Meeting Minutes – January 18, 2023

The Luzerne County Farmland Preservation Board met virtually and at the Luzerne Conservation District, January 18, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. Anyone interested in attending the meeting had the opportunity to attend as it was announced a week prior in the Citizen's Voice newspaper.

Attendance: The following members were in attendance: Linda Thoma, Board Chair; Jon Lucas, farmer; Rich Yost, municipal; Jennifer Lauri, program administrator; Nancy Snee, at-large; and Martin Smith, farmer and Bryan McManus, developer.

Meeting Minutes:

Linda Thoma called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. The meeting was recorded for minute taking purposes as well as availability if requested. The meeting can be found at <https://transcripts.gotomeeting.com/#/s/9a193ea8ac088cea8719f88cf29ed68626f247f4ddd702e3b2faa70469e91f28>

The meeting minutes for December 15, 2022, were presented for approval via email prior to the meeting. Rich made the motion to approve the minutes. Martin seconded it. Motion passed.

Jennifer provided an update on the UGI pipeline planned to pass through preserved farms as well as the proposal of a regulation station proposed on the Hilliard farm. Rich suggested at the December meeting to request UGI payback the Farmland Preservation Program for the acres coming out of production for the regulation station on the Hilliard farm. Jennifer presented this to the state requesting approval to move forward with reimbursement request. The state was not able to provide a definitive answer at the time. Program Director, Stephanie Zimmerman stated that our questions on the local level prompted further discussion on the topic at the state level and she will provide more information soon.

Linda asked for any final suggestions or edits to the subdivision language and Program Guide updates. Members of the board asked for some clarification on wording choice and intent of the message. Collectively, board members chose different wording in sections to clearly state program intent. Linda requested a motion for final approval of the Program Guide document and to submit it to the state for review. Nancy made the motion and Martin seconded it. Motion passed.

Jennifer provided an update from the Planning Commission. Matt Jones from Planning Commission has requested additional funds for the program to be used to preserve three farms per year. This would cover costs for appraisals, surveys, and any incidentals.

Linda suggested having a discussion with our current appraiser Don Van Fleet to determine if there is someone he works with or who would complete work currently in progress if something

should happen to him. The loss of a surveyor or appraiser in this program could cause a significant setback and we will need to be prepared with an alternative.

Jon Lucas made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 a.m. Rich seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Prepared By:

For:



Jennifer Lauri



Jon Lucas (Secretary)