

Luzerne County Farmland Preservation Board

Meeting Minutes – April 4, 2025

The Luzerne County Farmland Preservation Board met virtually and in person April 4, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. Anyone interested in attending the meeting had the opportunity to attend as it was announced prior in the Citizen's Voice and Standard Speaker newspapers.

Attendance: The following members were in attendance: Linda Thoma, Board Chair; Rich Yost, municipal; Blakslee Masters, farmer; Bryan McManus, Developer, and Nancy Snee, at-large. Jennifer Merryman, program administrator, was also present.

Public Comment: None

Meeting Minutes:

Linda Thoma called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m.

The meeting minutes for November 19, 2024, were presented for approval via email prior to the meeting. Nancy made the motion to approve the minutes. Rich seconded it. Motion passed.

Jennifer reminded board members of expiring terms and provided applications for renewals.

Jennifer provided an update on each farm in process and a farm that recently closed.

Jennifer presented the 2025 state allocation of funds and reviewed annual balance summaries in conjunction with the 2025 application waitlist. After reviewing the top three farms on the waitlist, Nancy made a motion to move forward with the Chris Maylath farm, David Potkey farm, and the Brian Kocher farm. The motion was seconded by Rich. Motion passed.

Jennifer provided an update on the subdivision of Keith Hilliard's farm. Keith has been advised not to proceed with any subdivision plans until subdivision language is approved in our county program and an application is submitted to and approved by the Luzerne County Farmland Preservation Board and the Farmland Preservation State Board.

Discussion was held regarding the proposed PPL right of way expansion in Black Creek Township. Several preserved farms will be affected by the proposed expansion and there has been no official information provided as of yet. There will be a second PPL right of way expansion in Sugarloaf Township as well. The line proposed in Sugarloaf Township will also affect preserved farms. Jennifer confirmed with the state, unfortunately this is eminent domain.

Jennifer informed all that the Shaffer farm easement violation has been resolved and will continue to be monitored.

Rich made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:56 a.m. Bryan seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Prepared By:



Jennifer Merryman

For:



Jon Lucas (Secretary)