

Luzerne County Farmland Preservation Board

Meeting Minutes – November 5, 2025

The Luzerne County Farmland Preservation Board met virtually and in person November 5, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Attendance: The following members were in attendance: Linda Thoma, Board Chair; Rich Yost, municipal; Jon Lucas, farmer; Bryan McManus, Developer; Dan Reese, Luzerne County Planning and Zoning. Jennifer Merryman, program administrator, was also present.

Public Comment: None

Meeting Minutes:

Linda Thoma called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

The meeting minutes for July 17, 2025, were presented for approval via email prior to the meeting. Rich made the motion to approve the minutes. Jon seconded it. Motion passed.

Jennifer informed all that there are two farmer seats open on the Farmland Preservation Board. Rich informed the board that at the end of the year he will no longer be able to serve on the board in the municipal seat. Discussion was held around potentially interested individuals to serve on the board. Jennifer will pursue options to fill the vacant positions.

Jennifer provided an update on each farm in process and as well as the appraisal summary information for each.

Rich made a motion to offer Christopher J Maylath \$3,500/ acre for the easement on his 35.417 acres. Jon seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Rich made a motion to offer David M. Potkey \$3,500/ acre for the easement on his 79.927 acres. Jon seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Jennifer updated that Keith Hilliard's application for subdivision will be presented to the state board for review and approval at their December meeting.

Discussion was held regarding program easement cap per acre. Jennifer presented information based on the past eight appraisals completed. Out of the past eight appraisals completed, five have appraised at or above our county's program cap. As a result of the discussion related to the program cap, it was suggested to contact surrounding counties and determine their program cap. Further discussion and consideration will be given at the next meeting.

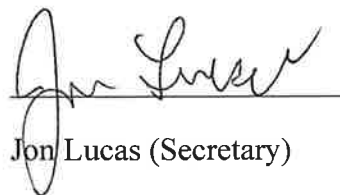
Rich made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 a.m. Jon seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Prepared By:

For:



Jennifer Merryman



Jon Lucas (Secretary)