

Richland Township Preservation Board Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2019
Submitted by Rich Sadler

Members Present

In attendance were Kathy Fedorocsko, Dale Henninger, Joe Geib and Rich Sadler. Staff member present was Rich Brittingham.

A. Minutes

September's minutes were approved as reported. Joe motioned, Kathy seconded, unanimous approval.

B. Financial Report: As of December 9, 2019, our fund balance stands at \$370,811.22. Assuming the income from the tax & non-easement expenses remain the same thru 2023, we will have approximately \$1,800,000 to spend on preservation thru June 2023.

B. Property Reports, Active:

1. **Clymer (36-45-27) 225 Axe Handle Road, 55 acres:** We are moving ahead. The baseline is done, we expect settlement by the end of the year.f
2. **Shelmire (36-45-28-001 and 003) 95 Axe Handle Road, 50 acres:** These properties are adjacent to Clymer. We have walked this property; we'll see how it ranks with our current applications. Mr. Shelmire's application for Ag security was approved at the October 12th meeting. Laura Baird from Heritage helped Mr. Shelmire fill out his application for the County Ag program; the rankings come out in March. We will see if there is other funding available.

C. Property Reports: Pending Contact / Action:

1. **New properties; NO CHANGE;** No answers from any of these property owners contacted in January; Swartley, Zavitsanos, Sames, and Schracht. Laura will contact Dr Zavitsanos and Mr. Sames again. We would like to have a ranking of applications by June, so we can decide which projects we will pursue.
2. **Berger;** Mr. Berge died & his Heirs are trying to sell his preserved property. The heirs thought a potential buy could build on it; Rich B informed them that they could not build.

D. Old Business

1. **Baseline Monitoring:** All properties have been walked & Dan prepared his report. Mr. Landgreen asked about taking down dead ash trees on his property.
Left from last year's monitoring problems: Burkey had some dumping. Neil reported problems with the Lisbon tract. 27, 29, & 31 Essex Court are encroaching on Lisbon. There is trash scattered, bushes cleared & 4-wheeler tracks, The County has been notified & hopefully will go after the offending parties. Coby needs to move a manure pile to a 22 x 27 pad, which will be followed up with.
2. **Preserved Property Signs-** 10 new signs have been installed

2/20/2020

3. **Village signs- NO CHANGE:** Kathy got samples & estimates for 4 village signs, \$220 each for two sided signs. We chose the blue on white background sample. We can go to the supervisors in February to see if they will give approval.
4. **Freeze on Taxes for County Ag preserved lands-** We found that the School Board is already working on a freeze. We like the idea as an incentive, but Joe and Dale expressed concerns with the effects of taxes being frozen in perpetuity. Solebury and Palisades have done this. Mgr. Paul Stepanoff is anxious for us to move forward with this and told Rich B there could be a budget from the township for Heritage to work on this for us.

E. Open Discussion

1. **WB homes Phase 1, Paletown & Rocky Ridge roads.** The builder, (Pulte) has suspended work on Phase1. Breck & Deena Deen presented their objections, based on the presence of Indian artifacts & 3 Indian campsites by a stream in the development area. They would like to have an archeological dig or have the site preserved. Heritage's Jeff Marshall may consult on the historical nature of the site. Kathy & Joe will write a letter in support of looking at the site. The Deens also stated that there may be cadmium contamination of the site from dumping by Quakertown Borough in 1995.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 8, 2020 7:00 PM