

**Holland Township
Agricultural Advisory Committee Meeting**

Thursday, December 1, 2016
Holland Township Municipal Building
6:30 p.m.

Minutes

Meeting called to order at: 6:30 p.m.

Adequate notice of this meeting was given pursuant to the open public meeting act, by the Twp. Clerk on November 12, 2015.

Agricultural Committee Member	Present
Larry LaFevre (Chairperson)	X
Dan Bush (Township Committee)	X
John Bonham	X
Christine Frenchu, Consultant	EX
Edith Kozak	X
Susan Dufek	EX
Laura Wilson	EX
Kyle Young (Alt #1)	EX
Ron Lozowski (Alt #2)	EX
Heather Sorge (Secretary)	X

I. Minutes

November minutes were approved as submitted. Moved by John Bonham. Seconded by Edith Kozak.

II. Farmland Preservation Applications:

- A. Brown: Larry recently talked to Randy Brown, who indicated that their attorney continues to work with state and county attorneys regarding the estate situation.
- B. Kerr (B15 L1): Road sign indicates "under contract" on it. Probably will not be preserved in the near term.

III. Other Land Preservation:

- A. Silva Farm: B10 L43 (97.25ac) and B14 L20 (32.99ac): Larry is researching the feasibility of a nonprofit purchasing the property, preserving it, and then reselling it. Green Acres?
- B. Gombosi Farm: (B25 L30, 48.5ac): No update.
- C. Rothenberg Farm (B17 L20, 122 ac) No update.
- D. Slate Farm (B24 L6, 65.88 ac): Jackie at HLT will call to gauge their interest and offer to

meet.

E. Hoffman Farm: Hopefully will close by the end of the month according to Bill Millette

IV. Ag/SADC Annual Update due by December 15, 2016:

Completed by Larry and Christine today.

V. Other Business

The reorganization meeting is January 5, 2017. Meeting dates will be sent out soon.

Banking 2016 county open space funds: Committee agreed that the Township will 'bank' its share of these funds, which will be used for farmland preservation and the continued restoration of the historic Riegel Ridge Community Center. Our current balance is \$59,771.93.

Township write its own option agreement for farmland preservation applications: At the last monthly County Ag meeting, we discussed whether the Township could write its own option agreement with a figure lower than the \$7000/acre county default. Both the county and state staff didn't see any reason why we couldn't.

VI. Correspondence

FSA letter received regarding Block 6 Lot 49: No action required by Holland Township

Letter from FERC regarding route modifications: This letter, dated Nov 4, 2016, was sent because a township property has been identified as potentially being affected by the path of a route modification and requests the township's comments. Deviation #1710 on gravel hill touches Block 22 Lot 90, which is owned by the township.

Letter regarding Environmental Review Schedule received: Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) issuance date Dec. 16. Final (EIS) due Feb 17, 2017. (90 day) Federal authorization decision deadline May 18, 2017.

VI. Pipeline Update:

The township received a letter from PennEast, dated November 28, 2016, with a non-disclosure agreement attached. In it, PennEast agrees to allow the township to be a consulting party based on a letter previously sent by our attorney dated September 9, 2016.

VII. Public Comment: No Comments

Next Meetings: January 5th and February 2nd at Holland Township Municipal Building 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather L. Sorge

Heather L. Sorge
Agricultural Advisory Committee Secretary