

MEETING MINUTES
BUTLER COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD

Farm Service Agency, 625 Evans City Road, Butler 16001

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THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 2022 – 7:00PM
(postponed from February 24)

Members In Attendance	Members Absent	Visitors in Attendance
Ken Moniot, Chairman	Rick Stuchal	
Bill Duncan, Vice-Chairman	Alvin Vogel	
Rob Burr, Secretary	Eugene Bergbigler	
Larry Baumgartel, Treasurer		
Luke Fritz		
John Allen		
		Staff in Attendance
Commissioner Kimberly D. Geyer – Ex Officio		Sheryl Kelly

The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm by Chairman Ken Moniot on Thursday, March 3, 2022. A quorum was present.

1. Public Comment

- There was no public comment.

2. Commissioner’s Report

- Commissioner Geyer reported that the Board of Commissioners held a very successful Farm Town Hall on Wednesday, February 23 with about 150 attendees and there were a lot of questions about preservation. Among many other topics, the young ag professionals spoke regarding mental health and a statewide hotline has been established for farmers, manned by people who are trained to deal specifically with the farming community.

- The Commissioners have passed an updated Subdivision & Land Development Ordinance that covers all municipalities who have not adopted their own ordinance. A lot of the work involved streamlining, redundancy and compliance with changes to the Municipalities Planning Code.

- An updated Act 167 Plan is being considered by the county and possible funding sources for this important project.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Chairman Moniot asked for a motion to approve the January meeting minutes. There was a motion made by Secretary Rob Burr with a second made by Luke Fritz. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

4. Old Business

- **2021 #1 Maple Shade** – Sheryl reported that the Maple Shade farm is complete for state board consideration at their April meeting. There were a comments made by the state on a couple of items which will be updated for them.

- **2021 #2 Pizor**– The Pizor farm is nearly complete and might be ready for approval in April. We are waiting for signature pages from the owners that must be submitted to the state.

- **2021 Clinton Township #2 farm** – The Board’s appraisal has been received from the appraiser and was reviewed by board members. The state has already reviewed this appraisal and one comment / minor correction was made by the appraiser based on their comments and did not affect the easement value.

- There was a motion made by Vice-Chairman Bill Duncan to offer the Allens the appraised easement value of \$2,911 per acre. There was a second made by Treasurer Larry Baumgartel. All were in favor and the motion was approved. John Allen abstained from the vote.

- **Preserved Farm Signs** – The Board discussed the possibility of getting signs for the county’s preserved farms and Sheryl presented them with several designs and information from other counties. Possible prices will be checked along with possibilities on where the signs could be made.

5. New Business

- **2022 Application Round**– The Board was presented with information on the new farm applications for 2022 and aerial maps showing the area around each farm as well as their proximity to other farms. There are four new county farms for the countywide program and time was spent finishing the scoring on these farms so that the ranking for 2022 was completed.

- A motion was made by Vice-Chairman Bill Duncan to adopt the list, pending Sheryl double-checking the math, and to begin the appraisal process for the top three farms for 2022:

Flinner - #1

Kradel - #2

Hartzell (Route 8 farm) - #3

There was a second made by Treasurer Larry Baumgartel. All were in favor and the motion was approved.

- **Farm Bureau Information** – Board member John Allen brought up information released by the Farm Bureau from a list of things they would like to see regarding the state’s farm preservation program. 1.) that subdivisions on preserved farms be reduced to allow 25 acre parcels, and 2.) Parcels <10 acres adjacent to a preserved farms be allowed to apply for preservation.

6. Adjourn

Chairman Moniot called for a motion to adjourn. There was a motion made by Treasurer Larry Baumgartel with a second by Secretary Rob Burr. All were in favor and the motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Next Meeting:

March 24, 2022 at the

Farm Service Agency Building, 625 Evans City Road, Butler, PA 16001

Respectfully submitted by Sheryl Kelly for Board Secretary Rob Burr.