NORTH WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP

FARMLAND PRESERVATION / OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MINUTES

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February 12, 2026

Convened: 7:00 pm Adjourned: 8:33 pm

In Attendance:

Randy Cope -Township Manager	Al Geosits -Supervisor	Marlene Stofflet
Dennis Klusaritz-Supervisor	Rich Semmel - Supervisor	Heather Skorinko
Mike Kukitz - Director of Grants, Preservation, & Trails	Mark Yatcilla	Susan Williams
Bob Korp	Paul Semmel	

Dennis Klusaritz called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

MEETING Agenda:

1. **Approval of October 9, 2025 Meeting Minutes:**

   Motion was made to accept the minutes by Paul Semmel.
   Seconded by Heather Skorinko.
   The motion was passed unanimously.

2. **Preservation Update:**

   Mike Kukitz, presented the following:

   Highlands Conservation Act Grant Program (hand-out distributed)
   Highlands Conservation Act Key Highlights & Boundary Expansion (hand-out)
   - This program has been in existence since 2004 but is new to our committee.
   - The map and information was reviewed and noted that approval to apply for this fund is by the township supervisors as a resolution.
     - Paul Semmel made a motion to proceed with asking the Board of Supervisors to consider passing a resolution which would make the township eligible to receive potential future applications and Heather Skorinko seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

North Whitehall Township- Agricultural Security Areas (hand-out distributed):
North Whitehall Township- Preserved Farms & Recreation Areas (hand-out):

- These maps were updated and reviewed.

In Progress & New Applications List (hand-out distributed):

- Reviewed this updated list of various properties.

Open Space Tax Information Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) – (hand-out distributed)
Timeline to make the November 3, 2026 BALLOT – (hand-out distributed):

- Mike Kukitz reviewed a draft Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document regarding the Earned Income Tax (EIT) referendum. Bob K. provided input which Mike will incorporate into the document. No other suggestions or revisions were suggested.
- Various EIT rates/percentages were discussed.
- Paul Semmel said that ultimately it is up to the voters of the township to vote for what they want as a quality of life decision. Bob Korp agreed.
- The township newsletter, social media, video, and a workshop are possible ways to get this information to township residents before election day.
- Recommendation to put .25% (EIT) on the ballot was put up for vote by Bob Korp and seconded by Paul Semmel. Motion passed unanimously.
- Randy Cope said that there are two ways land can be preserved:
    - Land can be sold to the township to preserve.
    - Landowners may submit for Open Space preservation
- Dennis Klusaritz asked what would happen to any money left in our fund if there are no more landowners wanting to preserve in the future. Randy said that the money could only be used for open space purchases and improvements.

2026 Educational Video

- The township is going to do an educational campaign this year.
- Quotes to do a video have been received and ASR Media was selected which is a local company.
    - The main video will be 2 to 3 minutes long with mini videos to support the main video.
    - Potential volunteers for the video are Dennis Klusaritz and Heather Skorinko/family. Bob Korp offered his voice only. Other volunteers are welcome to participate.
- It was suggested that the video could be shown before the main movie at our North Whitehall Township movie night(s).

FINAL COMMENTS FROM FLOOR:

- Symon Salvestrini explained to the committee that he was in attendance to qualify for the Communication Merit badge for Boy Scouts.
- Dale Remaley was in attendance for his son but was unable to attend tonight.
- Mike Kukitz commented that Roger Gogle and his wife visited the township office to discuss preserving their farm/orchard on Mulberry Road.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: by Heather Skorinko, Seconded by Paul Semmel.
Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marlene Stofflet, Secretary

THE NEXT FARMLAND PRESERVATION/OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE MEETING

IS SCHEDULED FOR April 9, 2026.