NORTH WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP AGRICULTURE PRESERVATION COMMITTEE
NORTH WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL BUILDING
APRIL 11, 2024

Township Manager Randy Cope called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. In attendance were Supervisor Ronald J. Heintzelman, Director of Grants, Preservation, and Trails Mike Kukitz, Secretary/Deputy Treasurer Jessica Koenig, and members Heather Skorinko, Marlene Stofflet, Paul Semmel, Bob Korp, and Sue Williams.

Discussion

A motion was made by Paul Semmel, seconded by Ron Heintzelman, to approve the February 8, 2024 Farmland Preservation/Open Space Committee meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Director of Grants, Preservation, and Trails Mike Kukitz gave committee members an overview of updates that are being made to the Township's Ag Security Map. Mr. Kukitz has been working with Donna Wright of Lehigh County to complete a 7 year review of all properties currently in the Township's Ag Security program as well as preserved properties. He updated the committee on the progress he's made and the next steps going forward to complete the review.

- Dave Krapf, Riverview Rd., Slatington, inquired if there were any stipulations to how much of the land in the Township can be developed on.

Township Manager Randy Cope reported on the status of the Muth and Wagner preservation process. The Wagner's have received their appraisal from the County and have accepted. The preservation of this farm will be of no cost to the Township and the property is still next on the list to be preserved. The Muth property is in the appraisal and survey phase of the process. There will be a cost to the Township for the preservation of this property. That cost is currently unknown to the Township.

Township staff and Donna Wright of Lehigh County will be meeting with Theodore Rohr in April to gauge his level of interest in preserving his land and to discuss options for Preservation. These options could include State and County funding as well as the cost to the Township.

- Dave Krapf, Riverview Rd., Slatington, asked if the property still stays in the owner's name once it is preserved.

Director of Grants, Preservation and Trails Mike Kukitz reviewed with the committee the Request for Proposal for an Open Space Action Plan Consultant. He explained what this process would look like and what the benefits of having a consultant would be for the Township and the committee. All proposals must be received at the Township and by email by 2:00 PM on Monday, June 24, 2024. Mr. Kukitz also shared a draft of the Farmland Preservation/Open

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Space outreach letter that will be sent out to residents towards the end of 2024 and took suggestions for additional information to be added to the letter.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR (Non Agenda Items):

- Dave Krapf, Riverview Rd., inquired if there were any Township rules that governed maintaining vacant properties.
- Maxine Krapf, Riverview Rd., asked if there is a complaint made by a resident does that speed up the process of cleaning up blighted properties.

The next Farmland Preservation/Open Space Committee Meeting is scheduled for July 11, 2024, at 7:00 pm.

A motion was made to adjourn by Sue Williams, seconded by Ron Heintzelman. The motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned – 8:00 PM
Jessica Koenig
Secretary/Deputy Treasurer

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