

Williams Township Land Preservation Board (LPB)

Minutes July 23, 2024

Williams Township Community Building

655 Cider Press Rd., Easton, PA 18042

Present: Ken Kodama, Bob Schmidt, Lorraine Mineo, Lori Cox, and Alternate Michael Cortright; Township Manager/Finance Director Melody Ernst; Board of Supervisors (BOS) Ray Abert, George Washburn, and Michael Bryant; township residents

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ken Kodama at 7:00 PM. He called for the Pledge of Allegiance, then a review of the June 25, 2024 minutes. Motion to approve the minutes made by Mineo, seconded by Schmidt. Approved 5-0.

Updates on Preservation Projects:

- 2022-2 and 2023-4: On July 23, 2024, Kodama had a meeting with Ernst and the Township Solicitor, Reiss. Reiss said go ahead putting parcels up together, meaning apply to Northampton County (NORCO). The title company is still having issues getting the right-of-way (ROW) easement information from Met-Ed and NORCO's new model easement is not approved yet. Once the ROW issue is resolved, the projects can move forward. It was also noted that the properties will need new appraisals.
- 2023-1: LPB will check with Heilman to see if the sign was installed.
- 2023-3: No updates for this project.
- Show of interest: Schmidt has not heard from the family contact person. It was noted that Reiss had said the LPB needs to sit down with the property owners but one of the owners will not meet with LPB.

Old Business:

- Schmidt is working on the block style map to be displayed in the township building. He will outreach Heritage Conservancy to get an updated map.
- NORCO's new model easement language is not available yet and no timeline for approval has been shared.
- Ernst verbally reviewed new land preservation procedures and will email them to the LPB. LPB will need to update the Project Checklist and possibly other documents.

New Business:

- Treasurer's Report: Mineo shared the financial report as of June 2024: Checking account \$15,199.28, savings account \$104,537.33, and CD \$1,379,639.51, total \$1,499,376.12. Ernst shared that the one CD may be coming due and she will look into possible reinvestment.

No Announcements:

- None.

Comments from audience:

- Washburn shared that he would like to see a bigger map for the wall in the Community Room where LPB holds monthly meetings. Ernst shared that Reiss mentioned that LPB will need to replace funds and possibly have a referendum next spring. LPB would need to go to the BOS for approval by the end of 2024 and this should be added to the LPB's August agenda. Additionally, LPB had some questions for BOS about communication, presence at BOS meetings, and questions for Ernst about new Land Preservation procedures.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:57 PM.

Next meeting August 27, 2024 @ 7:00 PM, Williams Township Community Building.

Submitted, Lori Cox, Secretary