

Williams Township Land Preservation Board (LPB)

Minutes April 22, 2025

Williams Township Community Building

655 Cider Press Rd., Easton, PA 18042

Present: Tom Heilman, Lorraine Mineo, Michael Cortright, Lori Cox and Alternate Nurit Baron;
Board of Supervisor (BOS) Ray Abert; township residents

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairperson Tom Heilman at 7:03 PM. He called for the Pledge of Allegiance, then a review of the March 25, 2025 minutes. Mineo noted that an edit was needed for the March minutes under the Treasurer's Report. Mineo stated that the checking account and total were incorrect, since, unknown to her at the time, the financial report had not been finalized. Mineo made a motion to approve the edited minutes without the checking and total amounts listed, seconded by Cortright. The motion was approved 4-0.

Updates on Preservation Projects:

- 2022-2 and 2023-4: Heilman noted that Matt Babbitt of the Heritage Conservancy had informed Kodama and the township this morning that there are no updates on the Highland Grant. The property owner was present at the LPB meeting and shared that appraisals were done.
- 2023-3: Heilman also noted that Heritage Conservancy had informed Kodama and the township this morning that there are no updates on the Highland Grant for this property as well. The property owner was present at the LPB meeting and shared that an appraisal was done.

Old Business:

- For the block style map of preserved properties for the township office, Kodama was not present to provide an update.
- There have been no updates on the Northampton County Livable Landscapes Grant Program.
- For the Earned Income Tax (EIT) referendum, Kodama was not present to review updates. Baron shared that she spoke with the Township Manager, who clarified that alternates are considered board members and that she would be counted as one of the three board members when it comes to working on the campaign committee that residents have formed to educate the public about the EIT referendum. She also shared that the three LPB members who work on the campaign committee would be the only ones who can volunteer for the duration; members cannot be swapped out. Baron and Mineo volunteered to be on the committee, and there was discussion that Kodama could be the third; if Kodama is unable, Cortright volunteered.
- For the updates on the township website for land preservation matters, the block style map of preserved properties is not on the township website yet. Heilman will check with the township office to see if they have the digital copy of the map to upload.
- Babbitt from Heritage Conservancy is scheduled to present the land preservation workshop for the public on April 29, 2025 at 7:00 PM. The LPB was unsure if the letters announcing this were mailed out to landowners; Heilman will check with the township office tomorrow and update the LPB. Heilman will also ask the township office if they can post the workshop on the township website.

New Business:

- Mineo made a motion to include on the agenda the update regarding her contacting residents of preserved properties to see whether or not they wanted signs for previously completed preservation projects. The motion was seconded by Heilman, approved 4-0. Mineo then shared her update. She had reached out to five residents. She connected with a few and left messages for the others asking that they call back to say whether or not they are interested. Some of the previously preserved projects were done through Wildlands, but Mineo did not get a call back from Wildlands. A former LPB member in the audience had a contact number to share with Mineo. For the properties Heritage Conservancy were involved with, Mineo will contact them to see if they will share the costs of the signs.

Treasurer's Report: Mineo shared the financial report as of April 2025 which included the balances that were not available to her for the LPB's March meeting:

February 2025: Checking account \$13,357.40 and savings account \$1,521,027.42, total \$1,534,384.82

March 2025: Checking account \$11,166.85 and savings \$1,523,333.25, total \$1,534,500.10

Announcements: None.

Comments from audience: None.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:19 PM, following a motion by Mineo, seconded by Cox. The motion was approved 4-0.

Next meeting May 27, 2025 @ 7:00 PM, Williams Township Community Building.

Submitted,

Lori Cox, Secretary