

Williams Township Land Preservation Board (LPB)

Minutes May 27, 2025

Williams Township Community Building

655 Cider Press Rd., Easton, PA 18042

Present: Ken Kodama, Tom Heilman, Lorraine Mineo, Michael Cortright, Lori Cox; Board of Supervisor (BOS) Ray Abert; township residents

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ken Kodama at 7:01 PM. He called for the Pledge of Allegiance, then a review of the April 22, 2025 minutes. Heilman made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Mineo. The motion was approved 5-0.

Updates on Preservation Projects:

- 2022-2 and 2023-4: Kodama reported that the Township Manager did not have any updates to share on the status of the Highland Grant. Kodama said that the township is proceeding and will need to cover the costs up front, with the expectation of reimbursement if the grant is approved. The landowner was present and shared that he has not yet received the appraisal report. Kodama will follow up with the township office and, if they have the report, ask that it be shared with the landowner.
- 2023-3: Kodama reported that the Township Manager also did not have any updates on the Highland Grant for this project. The township is proceeding in the same manner as with 2022-2 and 2023-4. The landowner was present and noted that he has not yet received the appraisal report. Kodama will follow up with the township office about this report as well.

Old Business:

- For the block style map of preserved properties for the township building, Kodama measured the easel and now needs the map to be printed. It appears the township office can only print large-format jobs in black and white. Kodama will contact the Township Manager to determine whether BOS approval is needed to have Heritage Conservancy print it in color.
- There were no updates on the Northampton County Livable Landscapes Grant Program.
- Regarding the Earned Income Tax (EIT) referendum, the Township Solicitor prepared the draft ordinance, which will be on the June BOS agenda for review. Once finalized, it will be presented at the July BOS meeting and opened for public comment. If approved, the next step will be to inform the Board of Elections.
- Heilman noted that the map of preserved properties is now available on the township website.
- As scheduled, Heritage Conservancy presented a public workshop about land preservation on April 29, 2025. The LPB had hoped for a higher attendance. The board discussed that, if the BOS approves the EIT referendum, it may suggest holding an informational workshop prior to the November election.
- Mineo gave an update on contacting landowners without preservation signage for past projects. She contacted Wildlands and learned that they have many logos. She is waiting to hear back from the person in charge of logos at Wildlands. Mineo will continue reaching out to landowners about their interest in signage. For each project, the LPB would also need to know which partners contributed, so that they can be acknowledged on the sign. Eventually, the LPB would need to present funding requests to the BOS for approval.
- No further comment was made regarding the Federal Highlands Conservation Act Grant awarded to Northampton County.

New Business:

- None.

Treasurer's Report: Mineo shared the April LPB financial report. During the review, it was noted that some figures were inaccurate, so Mineo stated she will share the updated report in the June LPB meeting.

Announcements: None.

Comments from audience: The township residents who organized the EIT committee, Preserve Williams, asked for clarification on which three LPB members will be participating. It will be Baron, Kodama, and Mineo. The residents also shared that their PAC is not yet open; they are waiting on approval from Williams Township. They cannot open the PAC until the BOS approves the referendum. While they can accept donations, they cannot cash checks at this time. The committee remains active, and their next meeting is scheduled for June 20, 2025 at 7:00 PM. The township residents also shared that folks are working to cut new trails at Hexenkopf Preserve, and there will be a hike on June 21, 2025.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM, following a motion by Heilman, seconded by Cortright. The motion was approved 5-0.

Next meeting June 24, 2025 @ 7:00 PM, Williams Township Community Building.

Submitted,

Lori Cox, Secretary