

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY  
AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES**

**April 13, 2022**

**7:30 a.m.**

**Call to Order**

The April 13, 2022 meeting of the Cumberland County Agricultural Land Preservation Board was held in person and over videoconference utilizing Zoom meetings.

Attendees included:

Board members – Diane Stamy, Bill Piper, Denny McCullough, Barry Frantz, Scott Mack, \*Phyllis Nye, \*Mike Klinepeter

Advisory members – Vince DiFilippo, Samantha Gehrett, Stacy Cornman

Staff members – Kirk Stoner, Stephanie Williams, Mark Kimmel, Jessica Cohick

Solicitor – Robert Frey

Guests – Scott Rankin

Absent – Elizabeth Grant, Carl Goshorn

*(\* attended via Zoom)*

**Approval of Agenda**

*A motion to approve the agenda for the April 13, 2022 meeting with the deletion of the Brymesser/Gill Subdivision was made by Scott Mack and seconded by Denny McCullough. Vote was approved unanimously.*

**Approval of Minutes**

*Scott Mack made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2022 board meeting, Denny McCullough seconded the motion. Vote was approved unanimously.*

**Public Comment**

No comments

**Communications**

None.

**Solicitors Report**

None.

**Unfinished Business**

**Update on 2020-2021 Farms**

Ms. Williams referred the Board to the 2020-2021 status update sheets for review.

**Rankin Subdivision Request**

Ms. Williams reported that Mr. Rankin has submitted the official subdivision plan with the previously requested changes. The proposed 18 acre tract meets the criteria of at least 50% agriculture production on the overall tract and 10 acres in agriculture production. Since the original proposal was submitted a portion of land near the fenced pasture has been cleared to be tillable ground. There was general discussion on the future agricultural production on the smaller tract and the location of the one allowable residential structure. It was noted that Penn Township has approved the subdivision plan pending the approval of this Board.

***Bill Piper made a motion to approve the official subdivision plan, Scott Mack seconded. Vote was approved unanimously.***

## **New Business**

### **Brymesser/Gill Subdivision**

Ms. Williams provided an update on the withdrawn subdivision of the Brymesser Farm. Trevor Gill, grandson of the Brymesser's, has taken over the operation after his grandfather passed. He originally wanted to take advantage of the 2-acre subdivision and build on the property to be close to the livestock. He has now decided to put an addition on the existing house rather than build a new house. The request for subdivision has been withdrawn. No action is required by the Board.

### **2022 Ranking/Selection**

Ms. Williams highlighted the following ranking and selection background:

Grant Total Program Funding – \$3, 608,009

Summary of applications - 28 total applicants within 12 municipalities totaling 3,125 acres of farmland

The committee met on April 6 and evaluated three possible options for selection:

1. All traditional selections, no bargain sales.
2. Combination of traditional selections and bargain sales within 2 identified clusters in Lower Frankford and Lower Mifflin/Upper Frankford Township
3. Combination of traditional selections and open call for bargain sales

There was a committee recommendation to not consider bargain sales this year favoring acquiring only the highest-ranking farms. There was general discussion on the pros and cons of bargain sales versus traditional selection in the overall farmland preservation strategy.

***Scott Mack made a motion was made to table the decision until Ms. Williams reaches out to the above-referenced clusters, shown on the map as farms ranking #16, 20, 23, 25, 26 and 27, to discuss their interest in a bargain sale before making a final decision on selections, Denny McCullough seconded. Vote was approved unanimously.***

## **Staff Reports**

Kirk Stoner updated the Board on the Ag Discovery Center. Staff had a one on one meeting with representatives on April 5 to review the Cumberland County proposal. Cumberland, Adams and Dauphin are the 3 counties remaining in the running. A decision on a location is expected this spring, followed by completion of a business plan for the operation.

Mark Kimmel reported he has about 60% of the farm inspection questionnaires returned.

## **Adjournment**

***Scott Mack made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Denny McCullough seconded. Vote was approved unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:40am.***

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Jessica Cohick