

Minutes of Meeting

Augusta Township Farmland Preservation Board

Date: January 12, 2017

Time: 6:00 PM

Place: Augusta Township Hall

Members Present:

Sue Jantschak, Elizabeth Waffle, Sylvia Taylor, Heidi Graham, Dale-Lin Mallonen, Shane Lehto and Township Board representative, Susan Burek

Members absent: None

Call to Order: Chair Jantschak called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Public Comment: None

Introduction of new board member: Shane Lehto

Election of 2017 officers: Motion made by Graham and seconded by Burek to elect Sylvia Taylor as new Chair for 2017. Motion carried. Motion made by Jantschak and seconded by Graham to elect Elizabeth Waffle as Vice-Chair. Motion carried. Motion made by Jantschak and seconded by Mallonen to elect Susan Burek as Treasurer. Motion carried. Motion made by Taylor and seconded by Mallonen to elect Graham as Secretary. Motion carried.

Correspondences:

William Tobler sent financial information.

Board received email from Barry Lonick regarding Phillip Selter, a farmer in our township who received the Conservation Farmer of the Year Award. He farms 35 acres, rents 350, is verified under the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program for cropping and livestock systems, and is a potential candidate for purchase of development rights in the township. The Board will send a letter of congratulations to him as well as an invitation to attend future board meetings and learn about a PDR opportunity if interested.

Financial report and discussion of the 2017 budget:

The Board discussed how the current PDR Ordinance, which is the Board's governing document, is based on PDR acquisitions only. However, the new millage passed last year, which will fund the Board's activities, was based on pamphlet wording that includes broader responsibilities. The question was raised on whether the FPB informational pamphlet is a new governing document to guide the goals and objectives of the Board. A previously developed mission statement was also brought forward and needs further discussion on its role in guiding Board activities. The Board needs further guidance from the Township Board of Trustees on their scope of responsibility.

The Board discussed the 2017 budget and Jantchak moved to pass the following as the 2017 budget, Burek seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

2017 FPB Budget:

Office Supplies \$100

Postage \$100

Printing Educational Materials \$500

Acquisition Fund \$20, 364

Discussion of the need for a consultant: The Board decided to temporarily postpone including a budget request for a Consultant until the acquisition fund is larger. This decision may be revisited later in the year if the need arises.

Other items from members: None

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.