

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD
FARMLAND PRESERVATION, INC
SEPTEMBER 24, 2019**

The regular meeting of Farmland Preservation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, September 24, 2019 in the Lower Makefield Township Municipal Building. Mr. Blank called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Those Present

Farmland Preservation

Mike Blank

Dan Bankoske

Dennis Steadman

Others

Bob Colavita

MINUTES

Motion made by Mr. Bankoske to approve minutes of August 20, 2019 as amended. Motion moved and approved by the Board and carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Blank stated the Fidelity account balance is between \$404,000 & 408,000. Mr. Blank stated there were two checks written from the William Penn bank account: LMT- \$28.00 & Corcoran Landscaping - \$50.00.

PROGRESS ON LEASE RENEWALS

Mr. Steadman stated he is waiting to hear back from the Township Solicitor regarding the revised lease drafts. He will reach out again. The Board discussed and agreed to move ahead with contacting the farmers to set up dates and times to start reviewing the new leases, except for Mr. Colavita who has already signed his new lease.

MAKEFIELD BROOK ISSUES

Erosion: Mr. Steadman stated DRJTBC is continuing to work on the embankment, where there is erosion. Mr. Bankoske stated DRJTBC will send a representative to look at this matter and feels the work will be finished but on DRJTBC's own timeline. Farmland may have to check in occasionally, for updates.

Mr. Steadman stated someone has stolen soil from Farmland's property located behind the residence of 1367 Brentwood Road, and it was suggested that Mr. Riblet draft a letter to the homeowner concerning this issue. Mr.

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Steadman will contact Mr. Riblet with details for the letter. Mr. Blank will contact Corcoran Landscaping concerning bamboo issues.

Clearview- Mr. Bankoske stated DRJTBC finished working on the embankment where they acquired land from Farmland and is very pleased with the results.

REPORTS ON CONDITIONS OF BUFFERS

- *Leedom* – Mr. Bankoske stated he has contacted Mr. Patel, homeowner at 2033 Trowbridge Drive, whose landscaper removed trees in the buffer area about replacing the trees. Mr. Bankoske will contact Mr. McGowan, who farms this parcel, for his opinion about replacing the trees.
- *Stackhouse* – Mr. Blank stated that as of tonight’s meeting, nothing has been done to the tree which is located next to Kaplan’s property (right side, closer to Dolington). Mr. Bankoske stated there is also another tree on the left front corner of the driveway that should be inspected by Corcoran Landscaping.
- *Stackhouse* -1590 Brookfield – “Wright’s” property – there is bamboo regrowth. Mr. Blank will contact Corcoran Landscaping about taking care of this issue.
- *Longshore* – Mrs. Patel, 1524 Pownal Drive, contacted Farmland concerning the overgrowth of vines growing through her side of the fence. Mr. Blank stated he sprayed the area and will revisit in about a month to reevaluate the situation.
- *Longshore* - Mrs. Murrills, a resident on Merrick Road asked that the buffer area be maintained. Mr. Blank stated Mr. Stewart has since mowed the buffer area. Mrs. Murrills also stated there is a dead tree located on Woodside, across from the golf course, that she feels needs to be removed & she would like to see it replaced. The Board discussed and voted in favor of having the tree removed so that the Stewarts can have easier access to the field and wants to contact the Township to see who is responsible for the removal.
- *Farmview I & II* – No update as Mr. Riblet was absent.
- *Bridle Estates* – Mr. Bankoske stated that Mr. Yeager told him everything looks well maintained.

UPDATE ON BOWMA DEER HUNTING REQUEST & RED TAG PROGRAM

Mr. Steadman stated Mr. Stewart denied BOWMA’s request to hunt on his leased properties (Clearview & Makefield Brook).

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Mr. Steadman completed the application for the “red tag” program and stated Mr. Stewart must sign the application since he is the agricultural producer of the property that is being damaged by the deer. The application is due February 2020.

Mr. Steadman asked the Board if they would like to offer this additional hunting opportunity to BOWMA, which they said yes. Mr. Steadman stated that Mr. Stewart was not interested in sharing the additional hunting days with BOWMA. Mr. Steadman will talk to Mr. Stewart once more before contacting BOWMA.

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE AND DISCUSSION

Mr. Blank stated he contacted the following groups:

- Martha Washington Garden Club - Mr. Blank stated he spoke with Ms. Arlene Gordon and the garden club offers \$2,500 scholarships to qualified high school applicants.
- Pennsbury School District Scholarship Foundation – waiting for a return phone call.
- Delaware Valley University – waiting for a return phone call.

The Board discussed the possibilities of starting a scholarship program and agreed it’s a good idea. Mr. Blank will continue researching and report back his findings.

REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS

All action items from the August minutes have been completed as of the September meeting.

September’s items:

- Mr. Steadman will contact farmers for their availability for lease discussions.
- Mr. Steadman to request Mr. Riblet to write a letter regarding soil theft from Makefield Brook (completed).
- Mr. Bankoske will ask Mr. McGowan’s opinion on tree placement on Heather Ridge.
- Mr. Bankoske to provide BOWMA contact information to Mr. Steadman (completed).
- Mr. Blank to request Corcoran Landscaping to remove bamboo and trees from Stackhouse and bamboo from Makefield Brook (completed).

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Bankoske stated today would have been Mr. Duane “Buster” Doan’s 91st birthday.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Blank, President