

FARMLAND PRESERVATION, INC.  
MINUTES – OCTOBER 18, 2021

The regular meeting of the Lower Makefield Farmland Preservation, Inc. (Farmland) Board of Directors (Board) was held remotely on October 18, 2021. Mr. Steadman called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Those present:

Farmland Preservation, Inc.: Dennis Steadman, Vice President and Acting Secretary  
Daniel Bankoske, Treasurer  
Sean Carney, Member

Absent: Michael Blank, Farmland Preservation Inc. President  
James McCartney, Supervisor Liaison

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Mr. Steadman  
Mr. Bankoske moved, Mr. Carney seconded and it was unanimously carried to approve the Minutes of September 8, 2021 as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Mr. Bankoske  
Corcoran Landscaping did their latest round of cutting back and spraying bamboo at both the Makefield Brook property and the Stackhouse property. This is a pre-arranged fee of \$400 and a check will be sent to Corcoran Landscaping for that work.

UPDATE ON TREE REMOVAL @2367 TROWBRIDGE DRIVE (HEATHER RIDGE): Mr. Bankoske  
This was discussed at the last meeting, and the Board agreed that they would let the homeowner remove the tree at their expense provided they used a properly-insured tree removal company. Nothing has been done yet.

PROPOSAL FOR LMFP POLICY ON TREE REMOVAL: Mr. Carney  
The proposed document was sent to the Board on September 23, which laid out the ground rules for such actions. There was discussion whether something should be added with regard to the scope and size of a tree. Mr. Bankoske stated he would like to review the document again before voting on it. He feels it is important to put this in place so that actions are consistent. Mr. Carney agreed that there should be consistency so that whichever Board member is contacted, a tree on one property would be treated the same on as on any other property.

It was agreed that the policy be put on the next Agenda in final written form, which can be voted upon and put in practice. It was agreed that all Board members will review the policy one more time and make suggested edits prior to the next meeting. Mr. Carney agreed to consolidate all edits to make create a final version before the next Board meeting.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION, INC.  
MINUTES – OCTOBER 18, 2021

FENCING 1367 & 1369 BRENTWOOD RD (MAKEFIELD BROOK): Mr. Steadman  
Mr. Steadman stated he was on the site this morning and met with neighbor, Jaan Pesti and they repaired the fence together. Mr. Pesti had trimmed some of the limbs overhanging Farmland property in the way of the fence. A good example of a cooperative neighbor.

PLAN FOR CORCORAN LANDSCAPING WINTER JOBS: Mr. Carney  
The spreadsheet was provided in the Share-Drive with currently four jobs listed – 1491 Heather Ridge, 1775 to 1777 Green Briar Court, 1449 Heather Ridge, and Makefield Brooke - Brentwood Road (there is not an exact address for this). All these jobs are coded “yellow” and none of them are immediate issues requiring Corcoran Landscaping to go out “tomorrow,” but none of them are coded “green” meaning that we can wait 2-3 years; these are jobs which should be dealt with in this calendar year or early next year.

The Contract with Corcoran is booked for ten days of work, so if nothing else comes in, there should be sufficient time to accomplish these four jobs as well as do some buffer maintenance. The Board should provide recommendations as to where work needs to be done. If more projects get added to the spreadsheet, the projects will be arranged in the proper order to use Mr. Corcoran’s time most efficiently.

Mr. Steadman stated Makefield Brook has different needs and suggested Board members walk the area together so that they can discuss the priorities. Mr. Carney suggested Mr. Corcoran be included in the walk as well. The area of interest in Makefield Brook is Brentwood Rr. Mr. Carney will discuss potential dates with Mr. Corcoran and the Board. Mr. Steadman stated it should not take more than an hour. Mr. Bankoske stated Sunday mornings work best for him.

Mr. Bankoske stated that as one enters Farmview I going back toward the retention basin, the property line has become very over-grown on the right and should be cut back closer to the fence. Nuisance trees and vines should be removed, similar to what was done at Leedom’s cleaning up that line so that it is easier to maintain and growth does not encroach the cropland. A letter should be sent to the neighbors in advance of the work advising them about the project. Mr. Carney stated it was his experience based upon the work was done at Stackhouse and Leedom, a number of neighbors came out, introduced themselves and discussed what work they felt needed to be done.

There is a stretch of homes near 1449 Heather Ridge that could use a buffer clean-out, trimming pine trees and removing overgrown bushes. Specifically, at 1449 Heather Ridge cut brush was left after a tree was cut down, and that should be hauled away by Corcoran Landscaping. Mr. Bankoske estimated work in this area should take no more than three hours at most. Since the equipment will be on site, Mr. Carney suggested they ask Mr. Corcoran to spend a day there. Mr. Bankoske stated there are six homes in that area which could all use some work.

At Makefield Brook/Brentwood, eight hours of work will be scheduled at this time, and what is to be prioritized will be determined once the site is reviewed. Mr. Steadman

FARMLAND PRESERVATION, INC.  
MINUTES – OCTOBER 18, 2021

stated the Board will need to determine the priorities, since Mr. Corcoran could spend a number of days at this location. Mr. Carney suggested that they see how much time is left after other projects have been completed, and Mr. Corcoran could be sent there to see what he could accomplish with the time that is left.

Mr. Bankoske asked if there is work that still needs to be done at Leedom's. Mr. Carney stated 1,000 yards was done at Leedom's, and to maintain that it would take approximately one day; and they could discuss that at a future meeting.

Mr. Bankoske noted an area where buffer clean-out could be done at Stackhouse, which is a marshy area; and while it is not overgrown, re-defining the buffer would be worthwhile at some point in the coming years. Mr. Carney stated the ground would need to be frozen or dry in order to get equipment back in that area.

Trees in the middle of Beth El were noted where there is some trash as well as vines/brush growing that should be considered for clean up at some point if Mr. Corcoran is in that area. It was agreed that at least the vines should be cut that are strangling the trees. Mr. Carney stated Mr. Corcoran did work on his own similar to that at Leedom's

POST-MEETING NOTE: Mr. Blank - Tree removal on 1201 Bridle Estates Drive  
Doug Wright removed a dead tree that had fallen in a neighbors' backyard at 1201 Bridle Estates Dr. The Farmland fence was damaged by the tree and Apex Fences was contacted and they replaced the section of damaged fence.

OTHER BUSINESS: All

Update on the Beehives

Dr. Strnad is looking to harvest some of the honeycombs and Board members had expressed interest in participating. Mr. Steadman indicated dates available to do this are mornings of October 20, 25 or 26. Mr. Carney and Mr. Bankoske were not available those days. Mr. Steadman will advise Mr. Blank of the dates, and they will take pictures and get honey for the other Board members.

Board Vacancy

Mr. Carney stated he discussed the Board vacancy with an individual who hunts Farmland property, and he expressed some interest so he sent him the link from the Website. When looking at the Website it was noted that Ms. Bock was still listed as a Board member. Mr. Blank had the Website updated and "position vacant" is now shown.

Future Meetings

An Executive Session is scheduled for Tuesday, October 26 at 7:30 p.m. This will not involve the Township facilities. Mr. Carney's offered to have this meeting at his home, and Mr. Steadman

FARMLAND PRESERVATION, INC.  
MINUTES – OCTOBER 18, 2021

will discuss this with Mr. Blank. The next public meetings are November 15 at 6:00 p.m. and December 9, at 7:30 p.m.

Red Tag Program Update

Mr. Steadman stated the Red Tag Program has expired for the year, and the unused Red Tags were returned to the Game Commission. We were allocated 23 Red Tags, and 14 (post-meeting correction, 13) were used, an improvement over last year. Almost all of them were used in September as it is difficult to hunt/harvest any deer in the summer months, and there's more success in the fall. There is clearly an interest in continuing the Program; and the hunters indicated that if the Game Commission could issue the 2022 tags earlier than in 2021, they would have greater success. This year they were not issued until March; but if the tags could be issued in January or February, those are better months for hunting. Mr. Steadman stated he will try to get the Application in as early as the Game Commission will accept it, and get the tags out to the hunters as soon as possible.

Mr. Bankoske asked how many different hunters used the tags. Mr. Steadman stated there were ten (post-meeting correction, 9) hunters who used the Red Tags including the BOWMA group counted as one since they do their own distribution. Mr. Steadman stated for every doe removed it means there is one less fawn that will be born next spring so there is an impact on the deer population from the Red Tag Program. He stated harvesting bucks does not change the population beyond the single deer removed.

There was no one from the public wishing to speak at this time.

REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS: Mr. Steadman

1. All - The draft SOP/Policy on tree removal will be reviewed by all Board Member and any comments/suggestions will be sent to Mr. Carney who finalize the document for a vote at the next meeting.
2. Mr. Carney – Check with Mr. Corcoran on his availability to walk Makefield Brook with Board members.
3. Mr. Steadman – Follow up with Mr. Blank on honey harvesting.

There being no further business, Mr. Carney moved, Mr. Bankoske seconded and it was unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis F. Steadman, Acting Secretary

FARMLAND PRESERVATION, INC.  
MINUTES – OCTOBER 18, 2021