

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD  
FARMLAND PRESERVATION, INC  
JANUARY 23, 2018**

The regular meeting of Farmland Preservation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 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**

**Doug Riblet**

**Eric Yeager**

**Others**

**Bob Colavita**

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**Nomination of President**

Mr. Riblet nominated Mr. Blank for President. Nomination seconded by Mr. Bankoske and carried.

**Nomination of Vice President**

Mr. Blank nominated Mr. Bankoske for Vice President. Nomination seconded by Mr. Yeager and carried.

**Nomination of Secretary**

Mr. Blank nominated Mr. Ross Bruch for Secretary. Nomination seconded and carried.

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**Nomination of Treasurer**

Mr. Blank nominated Mr. Riblet for Treasurer. Nomination seconded and carried.

**MINUTES**

Motion made by Mr. Blank to approve minutes of November 23, 2017 as amended. Motion seconded by Mr. Riblet and carried.

**TREASURERS REPORT**

Mr. Riblet stated he recently re-directed distributions from the Vanguard Mutual funds to the Vanguard Money Market fund.

Mr. Riblet distributed the bank statements which now include the money flows in and out the Money Market account. Mr. Riblet asked the Board if they liked the format of the statements. The Board approved the new format.

Mr. Riblet stated there is \$40,000 cash in the Vanguard Money Market fund which the Board decided to leave and not touch.

- Statement of Investment objectives – Mr. Bankoske stated that Farmland should not do anything as of right now. He would like to update his draft and get additional comments from the Board.
- Asset Allocation – Same as above. Mr. Bankoske would like to circulate the draft via email prior to meeting instead of at the meeting.

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### **FOLLOW UP ON MR. HIRKO'S REQUEST FOR FENCING ON LONGSHORE**

Mr. Blank stated Mr. Bruch was given the okay by Farmland's Board to contact Mr. Hirko with approval to install the fence on Longshore. It will be Mr. Hirko's responsibility to contact Farmland if he decides to electrify the fence.

### **TOWNSHIP CLARIFICATION OF BAMBOO ORDINANCE AND FOLLOW UP WITH NEIGHBORS**

Mr. Riblet stated he is still awaiting a response on the clarification. Mr. Blank stated he received an email from Mr. Majewski stating the following: Changes have been made to the ordinance and the Township will be sending the changes to the Township's Solicitor for advertising of adoption.

Mr. Riblet said that he would email Mr. Majewski asking for a copy of the ordinance once approved.

### **UPDATE ON PLANS FOR BAMBOO REMEDIATION – Mr. Bankoske/Mr. Yeager**

- 1) What technique should Farmland use in remediation of bamboo? Examples: cycles of spraying, cutting, grinding the stumps, hauling away etc.**

Mr. Bankoske spoke with the Penn State Extension Service and it was suggested to grind the bamboo, leave the fill and then spray and cut, spray and cut multiple times. This technique would be the most cost effective. Penn State Extension gave Mr. Bankoske a write up on

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bamboo called Japanese knotweed which includes a spraying and cutting schedule that Farmland could follow.

Mr. Bankoske asked the Board if they would consider having an outside company handle the spraying or would Farmland want to handle the spraying themselves?

**2) The possibility of having Mr. Stewart take care of the of the bamboo issues since the bamboo is located on his properties – (buffer zones).**

Mr. Yeager spoke with Mr. Stewart and asked if he would be interested in removing the bamboo himself or use contractors that have experience with bamboo removal. Mr. Yeager is waiting for a response and will report back to the Board with his answer. Mr. Bankoske suggested Mr. Yeager should follow-up with Mr. Stewart and possibly suggest working with Mr. Tim Stewart on this project.

Mr. Yeager also stated, Mr. Stewart said he would have to contract help for the project since he does not have the necessary equipment needed for the job, i.e. Grinder, shredder, and even a place to dispose of the bamboo. The Board discussed and stated it was not their intention to put extra burden on Mr. Stewart.

Mr. Blank stated he is in favor of having a contractor do the initial removal and then possibly have Farmland handle the follow up. Mr. Colavita stated he could order the spray for Farmland but whoever does the spraying, must be licensed.

Mr. Riblet stated Lee Stocker, Stocker Tree Service and Landscaping, has knowledge of bamboo and its removal. Mr. Bankoske will contact Mr. Stocker.

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Mr. Blank stated it is Mr. Stewart's responsibility to maintain the buffer areas, but in this special case, Farmland should pay for the initial removal. Once the bamboo is under control, which could possibly take 1-2 years, Mr. Stewart would take over the maintenance. The Board discussed and agreed.

**PLANS FOR LONG TERM STRATEGY-SETTING DISCUSSION**

Mr. Bankoske stated Farmland will be meeting at the Township building February 13<sup>th</sup> to discuss their long-term strategy plan. Mr. Bankoske has notes, along with information from Mr. Majewski that he will email to Farmland Board members before they meet, along with an Agenda.

Mr. Riblet asked if there are any plans to ask the Township for possibilities of increasing Farmlands acreage? Mr. Bankoske said yes, it is on the agenda.

**ACTION ITEM REVIEW**

*Action: Mr. Riblet stated he contacted Mr. Stewart about putting up a fence on the Clearview property while DRJTBC is working in that area. Mr. Stewart is going to look at the area at get back in touch with Mr. Riblet with his conclusion.*

- *Mr. Riblet wanted to know if Farmland would independently want to erect a fence for safety reasons. Mr. Riblet will review the ordinance about the buffer and report back to the Board.*
- *Mr. Bankoske wants to review Mr. Stewart's lease for this property and make any necessary monetary adjustments since part of the acreage will be lost due to the construction.*

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*Action: Mr. Blank will follow-up with Shaw Signs about a replacement sign for Mr. Doan.*

*Action: Mr. Bankoske will follow-up with the Board regarding investment documents – via email.*

*Action: Mr. Riblet will follow-up with Mr. Majewski for a copy of the revised bamboo ordinance.*

*Action: Mr. Yeager will follow-up with Mr. Stewart to see if he is still interested in the bamboo removal project.*

*Action: Mr. Riblet and Mr. Bankoske will each follow-up with Mr. Stocker about bamboo removal.*

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Blank stated Ms. Suzanne Blundi will be their new Supervisor liaison once she is sworn in.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Blank, President