

**TOWNSHIP OF LOWER MAKEFIELD  
FARMLAND PRESERVATION, INC  
FEBRUARY 26, 2019**

The regular meeting of Farmland Preservation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, February 26, 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  
Ross Bruch  
Doug Riblet  
Eric Yeager  
Dan Bankoske  
Dennis Steadman**

**Others**

**Bob Colavita-Farmer  
Tom McGowan-Farmer  
John Lewis, BOS Liaison**

**MINUTES**

Motion made by Mr. Blank to approve minutes of January 22, 2019 as amended. Motion moved and approved by the board and carried.

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### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mr. Riblet handed out the Vanguard account summary, stating investments are up 10%.

Mr. Riblet stated Farmland Preservation received a letter from Amazon Smile, listing them as a beneficiary in their charitable program. Mr. Bankoske gave a brief explanation of how the program works. He stated that whoever is shopping, on Amazon Smile, can select Farmland Preservation as their charity of choice and a percentage of their sales will be donated to Farmland Preservation, Inc.

Mr. Riblet will review the program with Mr. Small, Farmland's accountant, to see if Farmland is permitted to take part in this program and report his findings back to the Board.

Mr. Blank discussed a check that was written to Corcoran Landscaping for completion of the job at Makefield Brook. Corcoran removed bamboo stalks and inserted a plastic barrier to help prevent regrowth.

Farmland is concerned about the large amount of bamboo that is located on Sunnyside Lane, as it may be encroaching onto Farmland's property. Mr. Lewis stated bamboo issues should be brought to the attention of Mr. Majewski and the LMT Code Enforcement Officer. The Board discussed and decided they will look at the bamboo during the Spring tour.

### **FOLLOW-UP WITH FIDELITY INVESTMENTS**

Mr. Riblet handed out a comparison summary sheet he worked on comparing Fidelity's investment proposal vs Vanguard funds. He feels the returns on Vanguard funds are generally better in the time period he compared to the Fidelity fund proposal. He stated he does not agree with paying a financial advisor when the Vanguard funds are performing fine on their own. The Board agreed to review the comparisons and discuss at their next meeting.

### **BAMBOO MAINTENANCE**

Mr. Blank stated the removal of bamboo on Farmland's property at Makefield Brook and Stackhouse is complete.

*Makefield Brook:* Mr. Blank stated the homeowner from where the bamboo originated and encroached onto Farmland's property wanted Farmland to install a barrier to avoid regrowth. Mr. Blank stated, Farmland did follow the LMT bamboo ordinance to prevent regrowth.

Mr. Blank stated they are still working on a barrier to help prevent regrowth both laterally and vertically. Mr. Yeager will follow up with Corcoran Landscaping for a quote on the plastic barrier.

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Mr. Bankoske stated Mr. Stewart needs to make sure he maintains this area and keep the bamboo under control.

### ***Stackhouse:***

The Board discussed and decided to have Corcoran Landscaping use the same plastic tarp idea on the Stackhouse property as well. Mr. Yeager will also obtain a quote from Corcoran for this area as well.

### **BUFFER CLEANOUT & FENCING ON LEEDOM**

Mr. Blank stated the two last properties are being worked on as they speak. The homeowners on Farmview Drive have agreed to allow Apex Fencing onto their properties to complete the project.

### **SNOW REMOVAL STACKHOUSE & HEATHER RIDGE**

The Board discussed and decided to put the sidewalk snow removal out to bid. Mr. Yeager and Mr. Steadman volunteered to show Corcoran Landscaping the exact sidewalks that need plowed for the quote.

### **SUMMARY OF CONTACTS WITH LIKE-MINDED ORGANIZATIONS**

Mr. Bruch stated that he, Mr. Blank and Mr. Yeager had a conference call with a leader of Natural Land Trusts pertaining to how they operate and manage the lands they own. He felt the call was informative but did not truly pertain to how Farmland Preservation operates (e.g. Land Trust spoke of residents obtaining land through direct ownership or helping individuals place easements over land for farmland.) He felt that Ms. Meade of DNR Greenway Land Trust was much more informative and would be a wonderful resource for Farmland.

Mr. Bruch also spoke with Mr. Harvey from the Bucks County Planning Commission, Farmland Preservation division, and stated Mr. Harvey is willing to speak with any interested Board members.

### **FOLLOW-UP REGARDING COMMUNITY GARDEN**

Mr. Yeager stated he reached out to both Mr. Ferguson and Ms. Tierney about the community garden located at the Garden of Reflection, with no response. He will email again and include Mr. Lewis (BOS liaison) on the email. He will also reach out to his contact who runs a community garden in Lawrence Township, NJ.

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### **SPRING TOUR**

Mr. Blank stated Mr. McGowan will lead the annual spring tour on Saturday, March 9, 7:30 am, (rain date 3/16) to view the buffer areas. Also, while on the tour, they will look for a prospective property that could-be Farmland's major project for the year.

### **REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS**

- \*Doug to check with Bob Small, CPA regarding Farmland potentially receiving donations.
- \* Mike to bring to attention of Jim Majewski bamboo growing behind Sunnyside Lane; note: Jim has referred this matter to Mike Kirk, LMT's Code Enforcement Officer.
- \*Dan to forward latest list of Fidelity funds to Doug.
- \*Eric to follow-up with Corcoran Landscaping regarding prevention of bamboo regrowth.
- \*Eric to follow-up with Dennis and Matt Corcoran regarding sidewalk snow removal.
- \*Ross to forward list of like-minded organizations to the Board.
- \*Mike to ask for volunteer to take on Ross's outreach to like-minded organizations.
- \*All Board members to review Doug's comparison of Vanguard and Fidelity funds.
- \*Dan to run a back test on Fidelity funds' performance.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Blank, President