

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION BOARD**

**June 14, 2022 – 3:30 P.M.**

Hybrid Held Public Meeting (both physically present and virtual attendees)

[Zoom Teleconference](#)

Meeting ID#: 992 6733 7841

(267 831 0333 from phones)

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**BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDING:** John Corkum; Brett Altman; Stephen Quigley; Marla Hexter;

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ned Foley

**STAFF ATTENDING:** Anne Leavitt-Gruberger; Yvonne Montgomery; Stephen Zbyszinski, Ann Marie Meehan

**PRESS:** None

**GUESTS:** Chris Melville; Elizabeth Emlen; Terry Bird; Dan De Meno

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**1. Call to Order**

The hybrid public meeting (both physically present and virtual attendees) was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Mr. John Corkum. Attendance was noted; Mr. Corkum was present and three board members were virtually present; it was determined that a quorum was achieved.

Ms. Yvonne Montgomery, Senior Assistant Solicitor of the county Solicitor's Office, stated that she believed that this Board meeting is consistent with the requirements for holding public meetings as outlined in the Sunshine Act and Act 15 of 2020. Advanced notice and instruction was given to the public prior to the meeting, including details on those wishing to make a public comment.

Mr. Corkum asked attendees if they would like to make any public comments.

Mr. Chris Melville, President of Schwenksville Borough Council and Lower Frederick Fire Captain voiced his support for preserving the Kirk Grater Farm in Lower Frederick Township. Mr. Grater submitted an application for preservation in 2022 and it is under consideration today before the Board. Mr. Melville pointed out the following considerations in support of the application: sustaining wildlife habitats, protection from overwhelming area development, stormwater management issues, and traffic issues. He said that the current local infrastructure can barely handle these issues now and that it would be a great help to counter the uptick in development activity.

Schwenksville Borough Manager Dan De Meno and Terry Bird expressed their support for Mr. Melville's comments. Terry Bird offered to support any outreach efforts if needed.

## **2. Minutes of February 8, 2022 Meeting**

***ACTION***

Mr. Corkum called for comments on the minutes of the February 12, 2022 meeting.

*A motion was made by Ms. Marla Hexter and seconded by Mr. Quigley to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2022 Farm Board Meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.*

## **3. Status of the Farmland Preservation Program**

Mr. Stephen (Steve) Zbyszinski provided an update on 2021 applicants that have recently gone to settlement or will be settling shortly. They were: 1) John Black Farm; 2) AFZ Property; 3) Gwinn Kent Farm; 4) Barndt Farm; 5) Greg Moser Farm; 6) James & Susan Myers Farm.

## **4. Executive Session**

*The Farm Board paused the meeting and held an executive session to discuss potential offers to the 2022 applicants for the Farm Preservation Program. After executive session, the public meeting continued.*

## **5. 2022 Appraisal Recommendations**

***ACTION***

Mr. Corkum asked the Board members for a motion to extend offers to six of the sixteen farms discussed in executive session.

*A motion was made by Mr. Altman and seconded by Mr. Quigley to authorize the Montgomery County Farmland Preservation staff to extend offers to the owners of six of the sixteen farms under consideration for preservation in 2022. The motion was unanimously approved.*

**6. Next Farm Board Meeting — July 12, 2022**

Mr. Zbyszinski announced that the next Farm Board meeting is scheduled to be held on July 12, 2022.

**7. Adjourn**

*A motion was made by Mr. Corkum and seconded by Ms. Hexter to adjourn the public meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Marie Meehan