

**Holland Township
Agriculture Advisory Committee Meeting**

Thursday, June 6, 2024
Holland Twp. Municipal Building, 6:30 PM

Minutes

Meeting Called to Order at 6:35 PM

Present: K. Young, R. Lozowski, J. Bonham, A. Hammerstone, L. Wilson, L. LaFevre

Excused: D. Bush, S. Dufek, B. Kirby-McDonough, C. Frenchu

Guests: Kathy Sciarello, Michael Hammerstone

Adequate notice of this meeting was given pursuant to the open public meeting act by the Twp. Clerk on December 21, 2023.

March minutes were approved as submitted.

Farmland Preservation Applications:

Schafer/Cummins, MPIG, (B6 L62.03, 20.99ac): NRCS & SADC final closing documents approved; site baseline inspection being scheduled. An 'extraction area' is now an option on a farm preserved with NRCS/ALE funds.

Schmied/Harder SADC fee purchase (B6 L2 & L2.06, 116ac): Environmental/due diligence in process; tenants need to move

Clark/Tomson (B6 L60, 180ac): Applied to SADC to purchase property in fee. Appraisals awarded.

Slate DE (B24, L6, 65.88ac): ready to close.

Other Land Preservation:

Tilstra B22/L52 (23.29 acres) Possible Green Acres. No update.

Gombosi (B17 L24, 101.9ac) No update.

Other Business: See below.

HT 150th:

Kathy took a group photo to be included in the Twp's 150th anniversary booklet.

Kathy, Laura and Larry looked at Laura's samples of postcards for the student art project. It was generally agreed that the 5x7 cards would be nicer if the budget permits. Kathy will talk with Dan about the costs and relevant options.

Public Comment:

Michael Hammerstone was present to discuss the Storm Water Quality/Tree Removal and Replacement Ordinance adopted by the Township Committee on June 5, 2024. He reminded us that historically, farms included a woodlot for fuel and other Ag operations, and many still do. This regulation will be a nightmare for farmers that cut trees for firewood or other farm uses because it provides no agricultural exemption. Michael wondered if the Ag committee was contacted to comment on the proposed ordinance. Larry indicated that it was not.

Alex commented that, as an advisory committee, this committee should be afforded the opportunity for comment on any issue that may impact farmers and agriculture whether or not it is within our official mission. Ron and others indicated similar sentiments and wondered if the Land Use board had been contacted for input. Larry agreed to find out. It was suggested that this committee draft a memo to the mayor and/or township committee highlighting the serious concerns with this ordinance, the potential burden it could impose on farmers, and the sustainability of previously long accepted agricultural practices.

Next Meeting(s): Oct 3rd?

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM