

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

The regular meeting of Farmland Preservation, Inc. was held on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 in the Lower Makefield Township Municipal Building. Mr. Bankoske called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

**Those Present**

**Farmland Preservation**

**Dan Bankoske  
Doug Riblet  
Dennis Steadman**

**Others**

**Bob Colavita  
\*Tim Stewart  
\*Sam Stewart**

**\*Joined in progress**

**MINUTES**

Motion made by Mr. Bankoske to approve minutes of February 26, 2019 as amended. Motion moved and approved by the Board and carried. Mr. Riblet motioned and the Board approved that Mr. Bankoske sign the minutes in the absence of Mr. Blank.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Mr. Riblet stated investments are up \$76,000. The Board decided to table their discussion on investment proposals until all Board members are present.

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**LEASE RENEWALS**

Mr. Steadman stated the Farmers' leases are due to expire at the end of the year, except for Mr. Colavita, whose lease has already been renewed.

Mr. Steadman also stated lease terms are five (5) years and asked if they should start thinking about reviewing the current leases for any updates that may be needed, which the Board agreed should begin. Mr. Stewart asked if the Board would consider extending lease terms to ten (10) years or even possibly five (5) years with the option of ten (10). The Board agreed to discuss.

**FOLLOW-UP WITH FIDELITY INVESTMENTS**

Discussion was tabled until all Board members are in attendance.

**DECISION ON INVESTMENTS MANAGEMENT –**

Discussion was tabled until all Board members are in attendance.

**RESULTS OF SPRING TOUR**

- 1) ***Soil Conservation*** – Stackhouse, Farmview I & II – Mr. Tim Stewart handed out a copy of the updated and long-term Conservation District plan for this track. The Conservation District stated the problem with the major erosion in this area is mostly sub-surface water. The long-term plan to solve this problem is to install drainage tile/pipe underneath which would shift the water flow.
- 2) ***Drainage Farmview II*** – Mr. Blank contacted the Township concerning the storm drain that needs to be accessed to help eliminate where water is gathering and was told the Township will take care of this issue.
- 3) ***Farmview I*** – Mr. Tim Stewart stated he seeded this area last year but unfortunately since there was so much rain everything washed away. Mr. Tim Stewart is going to reseed and make the area a little wider by 10' to 15'. Hopefully the weather cooperates and the seed takes.
- 4) ***Clearview*** – Mr. Steadman stated the terrace needs to be opened (reshaped). Mr. Tim Stewart stated last year's weather also hampered this project and he will work on it this year.
- 5) ***Ground cover by DRJTBC on Clearview*** – Mr. Bankoske stated the Bridge Commission put in three rock paths for water drainage (Woodside). Mr. Bankoske emailed the Bridge Commission asking what their plans are to help with water drainage and is waiting on a reply.

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- 6) **Other – Bamboo- Makefield Brook** – Mr. Bankoske stated he will contact Mr. Yeager about getting in touch with Corcoran Landscaping regarding removing bamboo from this area. Mr. Sam Stewart stated he will be planting soon and they will need to coordinate schedules. Mr. Steadman stated there was a neighbor on Brentwood Road who cut down trees from their own property and threw the trimmings into the buffer area. Mr. Riblet stated a letter should be sent to this neighbor stating this is not permitted and the Board agreed. Mr. Steadman will supply the address of where the letter should be sent.

**Bamboo on Farmview II (Sunnyside Lane)** - Mr. Bankoske stated Mr. Kirk, LMT Code Enforcement Officer, sent a violation notice to the homeowner stating the bamboo located on their property must be removed within thirty days. Mr. Bankoske stated he will reach out to Mr. Kirk for an update.

- 7) **Fence damage on Stackhouse** (behind 2027 Leedom Drive) – The homeowner cut down Farmlands’ fence.

**BAMBOO REMEDIATION ON STACKHOUSE AND MAKEFIELD BROOK**

The Board discussed and stated there will be further discussion on bamboo remediation.

**SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL STACKHOUSE & HEATHER RIDGE**

Discussion was tabled since Mr. Yeager was not in attendance.

**COMMUNITY GARDEN**

Mr. Bankoske stated Mr. Yeager will discuss at the next meeting.

**SUMMARY OF SOLEBURY TOWNSHIP’S MEETING ON LAND PRESERVATION**

Mr. Bankoske handed out copies of Mr. Blank’s comments from the Solebury Township Land Preservation Forum that he had attended. One topic of discussion was the different benefits of preserving land whether it was an easement or gifted. It was stated at the meeting that “Lower Bucks once had the richest soil east of the Mississippi”.

**REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS**

\*Lease review – Mr. Bankoske stated everyone needs to look at the leases for any changes that may need to be made.

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\*Bamboo - Mr. Bankoske will contact Mr. Yeager concerning Makefield Brook. Mr. Steadman will forward the address on Brentwood Road.

\*Mr. Riblet will provide copies of the map & the experts report

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Riblet reminded Mr. Sam Stewart his rent payment was due and Mr. Stewart stated he will send a check.

Mr. Riblet asked Mr. Sam Stewart if he is aware of any property that may be for sale and he stated possibly the property behind Grey Nuns might be available. Mr. Riblet stated it may be worth a phone call to investigate.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Bankoske, Vice President