

**BRIDGEWATER TOWNSHIP
FARMLAND PRESERVATION BOARD MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 15, 2017
7:00 P.M.
AGENDA**

- I. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE
- Meeting called to order at 7:12pm.
 - Roll Call: Dave Faust, Grant Howard, Remy Long, Dan McQueer, Marcie Scaturo.
- II. ELECTION OF OFFICERS – Chair and Secretary
- Members nominate Dan McQueer as Chair, and Remy Long as Secretary.
 - Motion to approve – Dave Faust
 - Second to motion – Grant Howard
 - Vote – unanimous
- III. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION
- Township resident Ron Jansen present.
 - Heard Township farmland preservation board was getting going again, and came to learn more.
 - Part of a group of landowners interested in land conservation along US-12 in the Clinton area.
 - Enrolled in CRP program, and is currently in exploratory stages of land conservation options.
 - Concerned about becoming an island of preserved land if he is the only landowner that protects their land.
- IV. REVIEW AND APPROVE AGENDA
- Motion to approve the agenda – McQueer
 - Second to motion – Faust

- Vote – unanimous

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation by Barry Lonik – Land Protection Consultant

- 26 years of land conservation experience, and currently a private consultant.
- Previously with the Potowatomi Community Land Trust, which is now called Legacy Land Conservancy.
- Explained how the State of Michigan relies heavily on millage from ballot initiatives to raise funds for land conservation and purchase of development rights programs.
- Is contracted by Scio Township, Ann Arbor Township and Webster Township to run their land conservation programs which are each funded by their own township millage.
- Led the way to seeing 100 properties protected by conservation easements, totaling 7,000 acres, some of which are located in Bridgewater Township.
- Works closely with the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission's (WCPARC) Natural Areas Preservation Program (NAPP) – namely it's two branches: the Natural Areas Technical Advisory Committee (NATAC) and the Agricultural Land Preservation Advisory Committee (ALPAC).
- Helps carry applications in the townships he is contracted by through the NAPP application process.
- Also helps those townships apply for federal dollars through the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program's Agricultural Land Easement (ACEP-ALE) funding source. Additionally, is applying for federal funding through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).
- Recommends this board speak with Legacy Land Conservancy, and to hire him as a contractor to facilitate land conservation work.
- An extensive conversation took place regarding public access requirements for conservation easements funded by WCPARC. As well, differences between fee simple land acquisitions and conservation easements were discussed.

B. Establish and Approve 2017 Meeting Dates

- Next meeting July 17th, 2017 at 7pm at Bridgewater Township Hall.

C. Establish Goals for 2017

- Board agrees that a thorough understanding of the conservation programs available to township residents in critical
- Board also agrees that land protection prioritization is critical for conserving the most important lands in the township.
- Board agrees to review the township's Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) ordinance and provide feedback.
- Board agrees to come to next meeting with long-term goals to discuss.

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- Remy Long offers to provide board members with a synthesis of local conservation programs available to township residents, as well as useful materials that distill essential information on conservation easements. He will provide this to the board before the next meeting.

VII. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

- None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- Meeting adjourned at 8:46pm.