

Van Buren County Farmland Preservation Board
March 13th, 2008
Administration and Land Services Building
219 Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw
6:30 pm

Minutes

Regular Meeting

Call to order at 6:32 pm

Present: Don Mackellar, Mike Thiel, Dave Foerster, Scott Cedarquist, Jeff Radtke, Laura Strehlow, Wayne Hammond, Bill Mihelich, Amy Lockhart

Absent: Ted Major, Bill Lawson, Tom Erdmann

Public: Mike Rainey

Agenda: Approved (Motion by Jeff Radtke, second by Mike Thiel)

Minutes of February 14th Approved (Motion by Mike Thiel, Seconded by Don Mackellar)

Public Comment: None

Reports:

County Commissioner – No Report

Township Representatives – Don Mackellar reported that Decatur is still working toward their Master Plan updates, a public hearing is scheduled for the zoning ordinance.

Planning Commission Representative – Jeff Radtke reported that the Planning Commission had received a P.A. 116 application from a farm in Geneva Township. Scott Cedarquist recommended that the LPB incorporate dialogue into the bylaws addressing rules for videotaping a LPB meeting. Cedarquist also reported his attendance at the recent “planning across boundaries” (citizen planner session) and commented on potential grant monies available to help with a land preservation seminar.

Old Business:

Preserved Farmland sign – Wayne Hammond had gotten pricing information for signs including reflective artwork. After discussion, a new quote will be obtained for a larger sign (view pricing for 3x3 and 4x4) and additional acreage sign to hang below the main sign.

Sign art contest – Discussion was held regarding the release of the sign contest finalists and winner. Winners will be announced in a press release and all participants will be invited to the LPB meeting for a photo op. Amy Lockhart and Dave Foerster will work on this item before April meeting.

Fundraising – For the May 3 Lachman Farm celebration, fundraising suggestions were recommended to contact: Finnerman’s John Deere and other farm equipment dealers, Tractor Supply Company, local cider mills, Felpausch for donuts. Mike Rainey will ask about a donation of apple cider.

New Business:

Ordinance amendment suggestions – Dave Foerster commented that the County Commissioner member is not a voting member of the LPB and suggested the LPB consider recommending another ex-officio member representing the Conservation District.

By-Laws – 2 changes were recommended and bylaws were approved by consensus.

LPB Appointments – Scott Cedarquist, Jeff Radtke, Bill Mihelich, Laura Strehlow, Mike Pioch and Mike Thiel are up for re-appointment and are all interested in continuing their positions.

Scoring system revisions – This item has been moved to the April 10 agenda.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be April 10th, 2008 at 6:30 pm on the 2nd Floor of the Administration and Land Services Building, 219 Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:22 pm

Submitted by Amy Lockhart

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