

Peninsula Township
Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) Selection Committee Minutes
March 15th, 2018
8 AM

Present: Ginny Coulter (Chair), Susan Tarczon, Dave Edmondson, Annie Floeter, Mary Manner, Dennis Arouca

Township Staff: Gordon Hayward, Laura Rigan (Farmland Protection Specialist)

1. Meeting called to Order at approximately 8:05 a.m. by Chair, Coulter.
2. Approve agenda: Coulter moves to approve agenda with no changes, Seconded by Manner. Passed unanimously
3. Approve February 7th Minutes: Coulter pointed out several spelling mistakes, Rigan made note of changes. Hayward's name misspelled. Motion to accept February 7th minutes by Arouca, Seconded by Tarczon. Passed unanimously.
4. Citizen comment: Nancy Heller present - no comment
5. Conflict of interest: Coulter reiterated her conflict of interest with the Weatherholt property. She is the adjacent landowner and will abstain from voting.
6. Reports: Rigan presented information on the USDA-NRCS cost-share program for farmland easements that could be used to leverage the township funds. Landowners have to voluntary agree to federal terms as well as meet criteria to be eligible for funding. Rigan presented challenges to the program, which included the timeline of the overall process and landowners accepting the federal "minimum deed terms." The committee discussed how future changes to the township PDR Ordinance could help align them better for federal funding. Rigan will continue to discuss the program with landowners down the list and gauge their interest in the federal program if there is not sufficient township funds to complete purchases. Hayward presented some other funding alternatives, such as a Headlee rollback vote.
7. Business:
 - a. Weatherholt accepts appraisal and appraised value as is. He wishes to retain one home site around existing farm infrastructure.
 - b. Hayward discussed the process after the committee makes the purchase recommendation to the Town Board and the responsibilities of the Town Board. Tarczon makes a motion to recommend that the Town Board accept the appraised value of the Weatherholt Easement and to approve the purchase. Seconded by Floeter. Roll call vote: Manner- Yes, Floeter – Yes, Arouca- Yes, Edmondson- Yes, Tarczon- Yes, Coulter (abstain).
8. Citizen Comment: none
9. Board Comment: Discussed next meeting schedule and when the committee needs to meet. Coulter suggested that they meet as needed but Arouca recommended meeting after the Weatherholt purchase is approved by the Town Board to discuss next steps. The committee would like to stay updated on landowner discussions in regard to the federal matching program. Rigan will provide written update in April and the board will meet May 10th at 8 a.m. Arouca invited everyone to the April 3rd agricultural technology night at TC New Tech at 6:00 p.m. at the City Opera House.
10. Tarczon moves to adjourn, seconded by Arouca. Passed unanimously

Meeting Adjourned at 9:40 a.m.