

**HALFMOON TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION BOARD
REGULAR MEETING-MINUTES
OCTOBER 7, 2015**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ron Hoover called the meeting to order at 7:01pm. Other members present were Christine Bracken-Piper, Bob Strouse and Patti Hartle. Staff present was Amy Smith, OSPB Administrator, and Rebekah Laird, Recording Secretary. Audience present was Kevin Abbey, Clearwater Conservancy and Sara Walter, senior planner for Centre County Planning Community and Development Office.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. MINUTES

- *MOTION: Bob Strouse moved to approve the meeting minutes of July 1st, 2015 as submitted with correction to Ms. Walter's name; Patti Hartle seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion carried.*

**4. CENTRE COUNTY MUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM CONTINUED
DISCUSSION**

Mr. Hoover went over history of discussions that had come from initial presentation from Ms. Walter and also discussion from last meeting. Mr. Hoover also went over Board of Supervisor's expectations of information they need to look up for consideration Ms. Smith made a clarification on a point that came up during discussion that if Ms. Walter did scoring on potential properties the final decision would still stay with OSPB. Ms. Smith further stated that the next step would be prioritizing the properties that would be considered for the program. Mr. Hoover stated concern that some property owners might think the board had already chosen properties for this new program if they changed it or that all property owners could not apply. There was discussion on how best this new opportunity could be presented and which properties they would try to offer it to (i.e. in or out of the program, rank lands that qualify).

Ms. Bracken-Piper asked if there was an acreage minimum for consideration into Ms. Walter's program. Ms. Walter answered that it was a 50 acre minimum or as low as 15 if they grow a specialty crop or are adjacent to another property that is already preserved in the program. Ms. Bracken-Piper suggested that maybe the board should look at what properties would qualify and then look at the financials of trying to place those properties in the program. There was brief discussion about the requirements in the ordinance that would allow the landowner to go from a lease to a purchase.

Mr. Hoover asked Ms. Walter if they put money into the program that they would decide how to spend that money and the match dollars they would get from the state would need to be used within two years. Ms. Walter stated that the board could keep the funds until they know they can be used or that they had enough so the time constraint would not be there. Mr. Hoover asked that if they wanted to contribute to a help preserve a property of mutual interest does that move them up on the county list. Ms. Walter stated that they were pulled out of order and the money the board put in along with the state money is used to preserve the property. There was a brief discussion on the possibilities of helping with the Thompson property and how they could get started on that. Ms. Walter stated that she would have to go to her board and get the okay to pull the property out of order, money would need to be committed before appraisals could be done

and also they would have to sign up for the program (sign an MOU). Ms. Walter stated that signing the MOU does not show a commitment to helping with a property but just signs them up for the program so they can have that an opportunity. There was a discussion on what recommendations they would send to the board and possible next steps if the MOU is signed.

- ***MOTION: Mr. Hoover moved to recommend to the Board of Supervisors to approve the MOU to pursue opportunity in participating with the Centre County Ag Land Preservation Board; Mr. Strouse seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion carried.***

5. OTHER BUSINESS

Board discussed next steps after recommendations are given to Board of Supervisors. Ms. Smith stated staff will take the policies for 10% exception that the OSBP worked on to the Board of Supervisors to approve for public hearing next year.

6. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

There were no citizen's comments.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14pm.

- ***MOTION: Mr Strouse moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:14pm; Ms. Hartle seconded; Vote 4-0-0; Motion carried.***