

Minutes board meeting July 13, 2017

In attendance: Patti McLaughlin, Rog Smith, Russ Hoover, Christie Young, Jim Fuller, Frank Campbell, Brenda Watson, Dawn Lowe, Derek Whitesel, June Reisinger, Marti Roberts, Paul Rudy, Michelle Jones, Rich Pluta, Morgan Tressler, Kevin Fitzpatrick

Unexcused: Steve Peters

Excused Absent: John Gerner

Guests: Jason Finnerty

Meeting called to order by Marti at 8:05

Public Comment: Jason Finnerty discussed land development proposals for the year, 54 subdivisions, 29 new lots. Also, autonomous vehicles and transportation developments. RTP, environmental justice info – integrating Amish/Mennonite side. Drones used like ultralight. Brenda added that she's seeing an influx of young people. Patti: Spring township is doing zoning. One involved doesn't want any big ag (anything above 100 cows).

Patti reminded that the minutes were posted. Russ motioned to accept, Derek seconded, Motion carried.

Russ treasurers report on Dropbox. \$3200 check outstanding. Patti moved. Dawn seconded. Balance will be between \$9,000 -\$10. Motion to accept report carried.

Marti's report: Have had a number of workshops to identify goals. We did not get USDA grant. Meeting in front of commissioners on July 24<sup>th</sup> at 1. Will ask for a five-year commitment. Will send materials out next week in Dropbox, looking for feedback. No feedback yet, as to why. Discussion about job growth numbers. We have limited opportunities to get funded. Don't know yet when we should submit next cycle.

Next steps – we have momentum, don't want to lose it. Need to put "thank you" in Times. Planning presentation to commissioners – will include info about what other counties are doing for funding, power point, pressure from Cumberland because they're running out of land. Solicitor, secretary, 3 commissioners: Russ, Christie, June will be there. Can we find people with compelling stories to show support? Please submit ideas for businesses who might testify. Michelle will send email to BRE volunteers looking for possibilities. Pull feedback from surveys and share anecdotes. Share connections made because of EDA. Jim Fuller suggested we check out Russell Redding's article about "save the future, save the farms." Every minute there is an acre of farm land developed in PA. Discussion ensued about how to frame our case to Commissioners. Help make farms profitable, revitalize downtowns, etc.

Dawn reminded that we have priceless info to offer Commissioners – we become the resource for them. Paul reminded us to tailor presentation to the audience. We'll ask Donny Barch to testify.

Rog moves that we fund August, June seconded. Discussion about funding for two months instead of one. Rog amended motion to include September, also. Motion carried.

Jim discussed Farm Fest. Next meeting is 20<sup>th</sup>. September 23 is Farm Fest from 10-3. Sent out vendor applications – looking for PeCo vendors. They'll have kids activities, petting zoo, etc. FFA and 4H will have presentations. Clyde McMillan and John Hines contacted about activities. Farm Bureau decided to let people “breeze around” to demonstrations. Derek needs photos from Morgan and info about Facebook event.

Patti moved to write letter of support for the Perry County Literacy Council, Russ seconded. Motion carried.

Charles Garner sent resignation. Patti moved, Paul seconded accepting resignation. Motion carried. Need to start thinking about additional board members.

Rich has new phone book, no residential listings from Perry County. No businesses unless they've paid. Call to register your complaints

County is part of natural gas cooperative (SEDA COG) – there are now opportunities for commercial applications. LNG meeting - 9 a.m Monday at Marysville Borough hall.

Christie adjourned, Russ seconded. Motion carried.