

Elk Township Agricultural Committee
January 18, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Location: Elk Township Municipal Building
Starting Time: 7:30PM
In attendance: Teal Jefferis, George Lucas, Patti Mood, George Dean, Wayne Swanson,
Phil Barbaro, Suzanne McCarthy

Minutes were read and accepted from the September meeting.

Officers were nominated and approved for the 2010 year. George Lucas will again be president and Patti Mood will again be secretary.

Suzanne McCarthy from the DVRPC talked about the township's Planning Incentive Grant Application Review Checklist. If there is an X, then the information is adequate. If there is not an X, then more information is needed, and suggestions were made for corrections. Suzanne has made the corrections, or will make them after she received the correct information from us. She will highlight the changes with a yellow color and put it on an ftp site so we can review it.

According to the township PIG plan, the township can pay the difference of the two appraisals to the farmer. This may be an issue, but we are looking into it. We need to get the language to agree with the ordinance.

If the township's plan is approved, Suzanne suggests we hire someone to deal with it.

A list of all the farmers in the township has been compiled and will be given to Mike Pantaleo to give to the economic committee. They are trying to make a map of all the farms in the township to promote agri-tourism in the township.

Hunting is not allowed within 50 feet of the Elephant Swamp Trail. It has been suggested that a sign be put up at each end of the trail to warn people that hunting is taking place in the woods nearby the trail.

We still have not heard if the Elephant Swamp Trail has been put on the map for the Audubon Society. The trail was submitted last June for consideration.

In other business, the idea of solar farms was brought up. It is the growing trend to put acres of solar panels on one's land. We need to decide if this is a good idea for Elk Township. We need to think about recommendations about where to put solar panels and how many if anyone wants to add a solar farm to Elk Township. Should there be limits or not?

The Environmental Commission is organizing a township clean up day, probably sometime in the fall. More information will be forthcoming.

Last year the agricultural advisory committee was budgeted \$1000. We did not spend any of it, but we would like the same amount for this year, in case something comes up.

There was no public comment.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:30PM.

Next meeting 3/15/10 at 7:30PM

The other meetings for 2010 are May 17th, July 19th, September 20th, and November 22nd.