



Bucks County Association of Township Officials

BUCKS COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Bucks County Association of Township Officials was held via Zoom on Wednesday, October 14, 2020 at 12:00 p.m.

MEMBERS:

- *Joseph DiGirolamo, Bensalem Township
- Maggie Rash, Buckingham Township
- *Barbara Lyons, Doylestown Township
- *Kathy Gentner, Durham Township
- David Nyman, East Rockhill Township
- *Kathy Babb, Haycock Township
- Tom Courduff, Milford Township
- William Jones, New Britain Township
- Dick Weaver, Newtown Township
- Diana Nolan, Upper Makefield Township
- Judith Algeo, Warwick Township
- Chester Pogonowski, Wrightstown Township
- *Terry Clemons, Clemons Richter & Reiss, P.C.
- Vince Deon, Northampton Township
- Fred Gaines, Warrington Township
- Jim Miller, West Rockhill Township
- Stacey Mulholland, Executive Director

*NOT PRESENT

1. Call to Order: President Maggie Rash called the Executive Board Zoom meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. Ms. Mulholland was welcomed as the new Executive Director.

2. Approval of the Minutes –September 9, 2020 & September 30, 2020.

MOTION: A motion by Mr. Nyman and seconded by Ms. Algeo to approve the minutes of September 9, 2020: Motion carried unanimously.

MOTION: A motion by Mr. Bill Jones and seconded by Ms. Nolan to approve the minutes of the September 30, 2020 Executive session Zoom meeting; Motion carried unanimously.

3. Treasurer’s Report – September 2020:

Mr. Weaver presented the financial statements for August 2020 and noted the organization’s good financial standing. Mr. Weaver informed the Board that the FY21 budget process is underway and as per usual he is collaborating with Julie Davis of DunlapSLK. Mr. Weaver anticipates presenting the Board with a draft at the next meeting. Discussion ensued regarding the legal defense fund and designated restricted funds. Mr. Weaver reported a cash balance of \$79,626 and \$19,421 in restricted funds, the designated Legal Defense. Mr. Weaver noted that at the direction of President Rash, he has prepared payment of 90 days compensation to Ms. Schreiber, as per the terms of her contract.

MOTION: A motion was made by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Courduff to approve the August 2020 Financial Statements; Motion carried unanimously.

4. Executive Director Report

A. Mr. Evan Stone, Executive Director of the Bucks County Planning Commission and Mr. John Ives, Director of Agriculture and Open Space for the County of Bucks joined the meeting. Mr. Ives provided statistics on farmland preservation in Bucks County reinforcing the program remains strong. The County has their eyes set on five farms in FY21 totaling over 330 acres. The County will be breaking the 18,000-acre threshold with the very next farm preserved. Mr. Nyman asked for clarification on the Ag. preservation criteria, specifically around the 50- acre minimum. Mr. Ives noted that farms with fewer than 50 acres are considered especially when contiguous or in proximity to farmland. Mr. Ives informed the Board that the County

is keeping an eye on legislation from Harrisburg pertaining to Agrtainment.

Mr. Stone reminded the Board that the PECO Riparian Buffer and Trail grant program was accepting applications and noted the low number of submissions so far in this traditionally competitive program. In addition, Mr. Stone provided the Board with a virtual tour of the Commission's new map and data portal. It serves as a clearing house for municipal information including quick facts, links to the Census portal and links to development plan submissions. The Board was pleased to see the major improvements to the site and thanked Mr. Stone and Mr. Ives for taking the time to update the Board.

- B. BCATO Scholarship Update- Middletown Township informed Ms. Rash the township would like to move forward with accepting the scholarship as they are in a position to provide the match.

MOTION: Mr. Gains motioned, seconded by Mr. Miller, to expend funds for the scholarship program match. The motion was unanimously carried.

- 5. Legislative Update-** Mr. Nyman and Ms. Mulholland did not have new information to report.

6. Other Business-

- A. Mr. Nyman provided an update from the PSATS Executive Board citing that BCATO resolutions opposing legislation, linked to Agritoursim, which imposes limits on township authority, was approved. The Sterling Act resolution is being renewed. You may recall, resolutions stay for three years. The resolution does needs Convention approval and will automatically be raised for consideration at the PSATS 2021Convention. Mr. Nyman reminded his fellow board members that as per the BCATO Bylaws new resolutions must be submitted to the executive board in time to be reviewed and sent to the BCATO membership four (4) weeks prior to the convention. Ms. Mulholland was directed to reach out to Mr.

Terry Clemons, BCATO Solicitor, to ensure resolutions presented at the BCATO Spring Convention, will be properly accepted by PSATS.

- B. BCATO Spring Convention- Ms. Mulholland was directed to reach-out to PSATS regarding their virtual meeting platform as the Executive Committee anticipates large gatherings may still be limited in early 2021.
- C. SEATO/COVID-19 Following an email from Mr. Hollings, CHESCO Executive Director, on the issue of COVID, Ms. Mulholland was asked to reach out for additional information and let him know BCATO is interested.
- D. HB 2093 “Save Tabora Farm”- The Executive Board asked Ms. Mulholland to provide the Board with a copy of the bill.

7. Adjournment:

With no further business, a Rash/Nolan motion carried to adjourn the Zoom meeting at 1:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacey Mulholland
Executive Director