Susquehanna County Agricultural Land Preservation Board
Tentative Agenda November 18, 2026 @ 5:30 PM

I. Call to Order

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approval of Minutes – see page 2

IV. Communications – none

V. Public Comment

VI. Old Business

A. Dobitsch Farm update – see page 4
B. Chianese Farm update – see page 5

VII. New Business

A. Barbour Farm – see page 6

VIII. Other items of Discussion

A. Member concerns or questions
B. Meeting dates for 2027 – see page 7
C. Reorganization meeting for 2027 will be February 10, 2027
D. Penn State Extension Ag Day March 19, 2027 @ Montrose High School

IX. Adjournment

Next Meeting February 10, 2027 @ 5:30 PM

Susquehanna County Agricultural Land Preservation Board
Meeting Minutes August 12, 2026, 5:30 PM

I. Call to Order: Chairman Leonard Wheatley called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Members present included: Commissioner David Darrow, Matt Hollbrook, Gene Hubbard, John Benscoter. Absent were Samantha Ellsworth, William Shay, Allen Scott, and James Barbour. Also attending was Agricultural Easement Program Director Patti Peltz.

II. Pledge of Allegiance: The pledge of allegiance was said.

III. Approval of Minutes: G Hubbard made the motion, seconded by D Darrow, to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2026, meeting.

IV. Communications: none.

V. Public Comment: There was no public comment.

VI. Old Business:

A. Dobitsch Farm update:

To: Farmland Preservation Board
From: Patti L. Peltz
Date: 8/5/26
Subject: Dobitsch Farm – Update

The state is requiring concrete monuments be set at two of the survey points. Once the monuments are set, Attorney Gathany can then complete the deed description.
Once the state approves, the neighbors will be notified in writing of their intent to bring the property into preservation.
This farm is now set to be on the state meeting agenda for October 8, 2026.
Nothing needs to be voted on at this time. We are moving forward as expected.

VIII. New Business:

A. Chianese Farm

Chianese Farm has been appraised by Don VanFleet. It has been appraised well enough to make an offer for Agricultural Preservation.

Ed & Gwen have both signed their W-9's and signed a release for a copy of their Conservation Plan from NRCS.

We have received their $2,200 check to continue in the preservation process.

The next steps in the process are to make an offer, and the landowner will have 30 days to accept the offer or withdraw their application. If accepted, we would then do a title search and order a survey of the property.
Staff Recommendation: Vote to make an offer to Ed & Gwen Chianese in the amount of $1500 per acre, Attorney Gathany to do a title search, and a survey to be performed if the Agricultural Board offer is accepted.
G Hubbard made the motion to make an offer to Ed & Gwen Chianese at $1500 per acre, title search by Mike Gathany, and a survey, M Hollbrook seconded and so carried.

B. Barbour Farm

To: Farmland Preservation Board
From: Patti L. Peltz
Date: 08/05/2026
Subject: Barbour Farm

Barbour Farm has been appraised by Don VanFleet. It has appraised well enough to make an offer for Agricultural Preservation.

We are currently awaiting their $2,200 deposit, signed W-9's and a signed NRCS conservation plan release to receive a copy of their plan.

If steps above are met and an offer is made, the landowner will have 30 days to accept the offer or withdraw their application. If accepted, we would then do a title search and order a survey of the property.

Staff Recommendation: Conditionally vote to make an offer of $1500 per acre provided the outstanding requirements of a $2200 deposit, signed W-9's, and a NRCS conservation plan, are received. A title search and survey to be conducted if the Agricultural Board offer is accepted.

D Darrow made the motion to table the process for the Barbour Farm until a deposit and signed paperwork is received, G Hubbard seconded and so carried.

VIII. Other items of Discussion

A. Member concerns or questions

X. Adjournment: M Hollbrook made a motion to adjourn at 5:47 PM, D Darrow seconded.

Next Meeting November 11, 2026

Minutes Prepared by:
Patti L. Peltz,
Agricultural Easement Program Director

Certified to be a true and correct copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Susquehanna County Agricultural Land Preservation Board held on August 12, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leonard Wheatley, Chairman
Susquehanna County Agricultural Land Preservation Board

Respectfully Submitted,

Leonard Wheatley, Chairman
Susquehanna County Agricultural Land Preservation Board

Dobitsch Farm

To: Farmland Preservation Board
From: Patti L. Peltz
Date: 11/04/2026
Subject: Dobitsch Farm – Update

The farm was listed on the state agenda October 8, 2026. The state has accepted the Dobitsch farm, we are just waiting for checks to close.

I will let you all know when closing will be the board is welcome to attend.

Chianese Farm

To: Farmland Preservation Board
From: Patti L. Peltz
Date: 11/04/2026
Subject: Chianese Farm

Ed & Gwen Chianese have accepted the Ag Preservation Boards offer of $1500 per acre. All paperwork for the offer has been signed. The farm information was sent to Attorney Gathany to do a full title search, and the surveyor has the farm on his schedule. We should be receiving survey maps by the end of the year.

We will be encumbering (earmarking) our 2025 state funds for this farm.

Nothing needs to be voted on at this time. All is moving forward as expected.

Barbour Farm

To: Farmland Preservation Board
From: Patti L. Peltz
Date: 11/04/2026
Subject: Barbour Farm

Barbour Farm has been appraised by Don VanFleet. It has appraised well enough to make an offer for Agricultural Preservation.

We have received their $2,200 deposit, signed W-9's and a signed NRCS conservation plan release to receive a copy of their plan.

Staff Recommendation: Vote to make an offer to Jim & Kim Barbour of $1500 per acre, Attorney Gathany to do a title search, and survey to be conducted if the Agricultural Board offer is accepted.

Meeting Dates 2027 @ 5:30pm

February 10 (Reorganization meeting)

May 12

August 11

November 10

Other 2027 Dates

Penn State Extension Ag Day will be held on Friday March 19, 2027, at Montrose High School.

Harford Fair dates August 16-21, 2027.