

BERKS AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE NETWORK

(B.A.R.N.)

Minutes of the September 27, 2016 Meeting

1:00 p.m. – Ontelaunee Grange Hall

284 White Oak Lane

Leesport, PA 19533

In attendance:

B.A.R.N. Members –

Adopt An Acre, Inc. – Ted Noble

Berks County Conservation District – Tammy Bartsch

Berks County Department of Agriculture – Amanda Burkard-Sell and Tami Hildebrand

Berks County Sheep & Wool Growers – Roger Bowman

Berks County Society of Farm Women – Betsy Sattazahn

F.M. Browns' Sons, Inc. – Carl Brown

Fulton Bank – Keith Silfee

Gayatri Wellness – Lucine Sihelnik

Gelsinger, Larry

Hartman, Esq., Chris

Hopkins, Lloyd

Hughes, Bill

Leinbach, Commissioner Christian

Penn State Extension – Mat Haan, Matt Werley and Jen Koller

Rothermel, Gary

Sattazahn, Robert

Scattered Acres, Inc. – Diane Hartman

Sihelnik, Lucine

Silfee, Keith

Transition Group, Inc. – Bill Royer

Thun, David

Guests:

Bowman, Nancy

County of Berks – Mary Buerer

Davis, Teresa

Lancaster Farming – Philip Gruber

Re-Design Reading – Alex Roche'

Reading Eagle / Berks Country – Jamie Klein and Lisa Scheid

Tyson, Harold

Guest Speakers:

Met-Ed/First Energy – Peggy Dimino and Mike Lutte

Veterinary Livestock Feed Directive – Dr. Elizabeth Santini

- I. Welcome**
- II. American Pledge of Allegiance** - The group Pledged Allegiance to the Flag
- III. Minutes of the July 26, 2016 Board Meeting**

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the July 26, 2016 BARN Meeting. (Lloyd Hopkins/Keith Silfee)
Motion carried.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Bill Hughes presented the Treasurer's report.
A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report. (Robert Sattazahn/Lucine Sihelnik)
Motion carried.

V. Committees General Announcements

A. Scheduling of the Bountiful Berks Banquet

Carl Brown advised new date for the banquet is October 27, 2017; committee will meet after the upcoming BARN tour.

B. Update of 2016 BARN Tour

Roger Bowman gave an update.
There are ten sites on the tour; tickets will be sold at the C.J. Hummel's Restaurant and the W K&S Railroad.

C. Update of 2017 BARN Career Fair

Tami Hildebrand gave an update.
Committee will meet soon; a topic for discussion will be the location of the Career Fair – should it stay at the Ag Center or be moved off-site to a location that would allow for expansion.

VI. Old Business

A. Update – Bus Trip to Ag Progress Days

Carl Brown gave update.
Not enough people signed up, a smaller bus was used.

B. BARN meeting – Tuesday November 22, 2016 @ 6:30 p.m.

A motion was made to invite all BARN Tour participants to share something from the tour.
(Keith Silfee/Bill Royer)
Motion Carried.

C. Update – Drone demonstration at a future BARN meeting

David Thun advised still putting together a demonstration; Chester County may participate.

D. Update – BARN at Reading's Holiday Parade

Lucine Sihelnik gave update.
There is no cost to participate in the parade; it would be a good opportunity to promote BARN.
A motion was made to participate in the parade. (Lucine Sihelnik/Bill Royer)
Motion carried.

E. Update – BARN at the Reading Royals Ag Night

Keith Silfee gave update.
Silfee advised Scott Hauseman purchased the amount of tickets needed for BARN to have a display and sell all tickets at \$14.00 per seat.

VII. New Business

A. 2017 BARN Tour Date and Region

Tami Hildebrand asked if BARN would pick a date and region in order for the 2017 tour to be advertised in the 2016 Farm Tour booklet.

A motion was made to hold the 2017 Farm Tour on October 14, 2017. (Lucine Sihelnik/Gary Rothermel)

Motion carried.

VIII. Other Items – BARN Members Comments/Questions

Ted Noble

Adopt-An-Acre, Inc. has its 4th easement purchase in N. Heidelberg Township.

Adopt-An-Acre, Inc. is looking for board members; please see Ted if you are interested in serving.

Jamie Klein

Reported she is leaving the *Reading Eagle* and will work in Senator Schwank's office; she introduced her replacement, Lisa Scheid.

Roger Bowman

Asked what the region will be for the 2017 Farm Tour; date was determined, but not the location.

A map was distributed displaying previous regions where Farm Tours were held. There was discussion about various regions in Berks County and Bethel seemed to be the most popular. Gary Rothermel suggested the Upper Bern and Tilden areas.

Commissioner Leinbach reminded everyone to not forget Hawk Mountain.

Lucine Sihelnik offered to connect with partners at market.

Discussion will continue at January 2017's BARN meeting.

Larry Gelsinger

Farm Bureau dinner is Friday at the Fleetwood Grange. Tami Hildebrand added that Eric Rickenbach, Emergency Rescue Tech, will be a guest speaker at the banquet; he will discuss farm safety and how the Farm Bureau and the Dept. of Ag can partner to hold training sessions and exercises; BARN could be a partner or sponsor as well.

Bill Hughes

Reminded everyone to use AmazonSmile when making purchases on Amazon. It is free, you sign up, select BARN as your non-profit and BARN will receive a half of a percent of the cost of your order.

IX. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made. (Gary Rothermel/Ted Noble)

With the conclusion of the BARN business meeting, guest speaker Dr. Elizabeth Santini spoke about the Veterinary Livestock Feed Directive and guest speakers Peggy Diminio and Mike Lutte explained First Energy's PA Act 129 Rebate Programs.

Respectfully submitted,
Tammy Bartsch, Secretary