

**HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP  
YORK COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-03**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF  
HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP, YORK COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA,  
ESTABLISHING AN AGRICULTURAL SECURITY AREA ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE AND PROVIDING FOR ITS COMPOSITION, POWERS  
AND DUTIES**

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors of Heidelberg Township (“Board”) is charged with the protection of the public health, safety and welfare of the residents of the Township; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board recognizes that the preservation of viable agricultural land and the encouragement of agricultural activities are essential to the economic vitality, environmental integrity and rural character of the Township; and

**WHEREAS**, the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania enacted the Pennsylvania Agricultural Area Security Law to conserve and protect agricultural lands and to encourage their continued use for the production of food and other agricultural products; and

**WHEREAS**, Heidelberg Township has established and/or may establish Agricultural Security Areas (“ASAs”) pursuant to said Act; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors desires to establish a Township-level advisory body to assist the Board in the administration, review and promotion of Agricultural Security Areas, and to provide recommendations consistent with the purposes of said Act.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Supervisors of Heidelberg Township, York County, Pennsylvania, and it is hereby resolved and adopted as follows:

Section 1.     Establishment of Committee

There is hereby established an advisory body to be known as the **Agricultural Security Area Advisory Committee** (“Committee”), in accordance with the Agricultural Area Security Law, 3 P.S. § 901, *et seq.*, which shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Supervisors.

Section 2.     Purpose and Intent

The Committee is established for the purpose of advising the Board of Supervisors with respect to matters arising under the Pennsylvania Agricultural Area Security Law, including but not limited to, the creation, modification, continuation and promotion of Agricultural Security Areas within the Township.

Section 3. Powers and Duties

The Committee shall have the following powers and duties, which shall be advisory in nature:

- (a) To review and evaluate applications for the establishment, modification, addition, or expansion of Agricultural Security Areas within the Township;
- (b) To assist the Board of Supervisors in conducting the periodic seven (7) year review of existing Agricultural Security Areas as required by law;
- (c) To formulate and submit written reports and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors concerning Agricultural Security Area proposals;
- (d) To promote and encourage participation in Agricultural Security Areas among eligible landowners;
- (e) To coordinate, as appropriate, with the York County Planning Commission, the York County Agricultural Land Preservation Board and other governmental or advisory bodies; and
- (f) To perform such other advisory functions as may be referred to it by the Board of Supervisors consistent with applicable law.

Section 4. Composition and Appointment

- (a) The Committee shall consist of five (5) members appointed by resolution of the Board of Supervisors.
- (b) Membership shall include:
  - (1) Three active farmers, each representing a different private or corporate farm;
  - (2) One citizen residing in Heidelberg Township; and
  - (3) One member of the Board of Supervisors.
- (c) Members shall serve without salary, but the Board of Supervisors may entitle each such member to reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of official duties.

Section 5. Terms of Office

- (a) Members shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Supervisors, who shall fill vacancies as they may arise from time to time.

Section 6. Organization and Procedure

- (a) The member of the Board of Supervisors appointed to the Committee shall serve as Chair.
- (b) The Committee may adopt rules of procedure not inconsistent with this Resolution or applicable law.
- (c) The Committee shall keep minutes of all meetings, which minutes shall include, at a minimum, the date, time and place of the meeting; the names of members present; a record of all official actions taken; and the vote of each member on such actions. Said minutes shall be promptly recorded and made available for public inspection.
- (d) All meetings of the Committee at which official action is taken, or at which a quorum is present and Township business is deliberated, shall be open to the public and conducted in accordance with the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act.
- (e) Public notice of all regular and special meetings shall be provided in the manner required by law, including advance notice of the time, date and place of such meetings.
- (f) The Committee shall provide a reasonable opportunity at each advertised meeting for residents and taxpayers of the Township to comment on matters of concern, in accordance with applicable law and any rules adopted by the Board of Supervisors.
- (g) Executive sessions may be held only for purposes authorized under the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act, and only after an open meeting at which the reason for such executive session is announced.

Section 7. Advisory Status

The Committee is established solely in an advisory capacity. In particular, the Committee shall render expert advice relating to the desirability, including advice as to the nature of farming an farm resources within the proposed area and the relation of farming in such area to the Township as a whole. All final determinations regarding Agricultural Security Areas shall remain vested in the Board of Supervisors, in accordance with applicable law.

Section 8. Repealer

All resolutions or parts of resolutions inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section 9. Severability

The provisions of this Resolution are severable. If any provision is declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions.

Section 10. Effective Date

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

**RESOLVED AND ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_ day of April, 2026, by the Board of Supervisors of Heidelberg Township in lawful session, duly assembled.

**ATTEST:**

**HEIDELBERG TOWNSHIP**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Timothy Hansen, Chairman