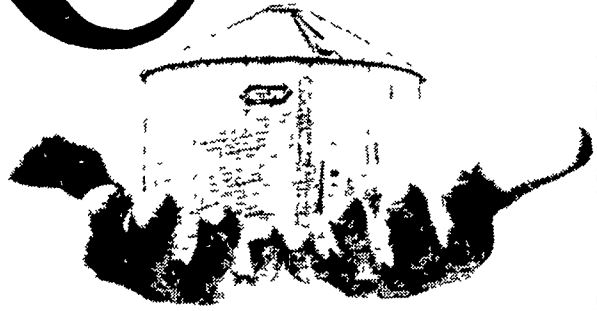


Pequea

(Continued from Page A1)

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HADE'S EQUIPMENT

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of a complete redrafting. To this end he gave the Pequea Planning Commission a 6 inch stack of zoning research from other areas including

ag ordinances from 5 of the 10 townships in the county who have constructed ag preserves.

Thomas said the increased restrictions "chop away at their (the farmers) right to farm."

Thomas also said that as the proposed regulations stand, it would be far easier to put up an airport than a house to hold 500 chickens. He also said there's no magic in numbers. He asked they stay away from simply increasing the numbers in the proposals to 10,000 or 20,000 chickens, "if raising chickens is agriculture, and I defy you to say that it is not."

Grove took issue with Thomas' plea to delete the numbers and referred to a Sangrey case in Conestoga Township as a case in point where regulations on numbers were necessary, at which point Sangrey, the farmer to whom Grove referred said Grove's statement was in error and the meeting nearly disintegrated into a shouting match.

Thomas also took issue with a previously uncontested section derived from the old zoning code which designates a farm as having 15 or more acres. Thomas said that other townships in the county define a farm in terms of 10 or more acres, a point which

Grove said he agreed with.

Thomas' proposals were: to make farms 10 acres or more; to delete definitions of farms according to size and type; to create ag districts and preserve the right to farm in them; and to avoid zoning ordinances at particular problems or uses. To emphasize his point, he read a lengthy list of state and federal regulations currently in effect on farming operations and asked the planning commission to recognize the economic impact in terms of increased hearings and putting existing farmers out of business.

Only one resident of the township expressed interest in keeping the proposals as they stand concerning agriculture.

Max Smith, county extension agent addressed the regulations concerning aronia noting that he expects a breakthrough in manure handling in the future. He said, "the Lancaster County aronia has never proven to be injurious to health."

Smith also said that by severely limiting livestock and poultry operations in the township and with dairy and poultry ranking first and second in the state in economic importance, what the proposed changes would be doing is "creaming the top off the township agriculture."

Paul Whipple presented statistics on current poultry

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and hog numbers and management stating that in order to keep these farmers on the farm and to bring their sons into the business, and with the changing numbers in livestock, he felt that specific livestock numbers should be deleted from any zoning proposals. His statistics also were aimed at showing the inefficiency of small grain operations which are not using intensified livestock numbers.

Grove said that the reason the proposals were there was to insure peaceful coexistence between homeowners and farmers. He said that the farming community had previously expressed the wish to avail itself of the other uses, including the right to sell their farms to developers.

Mark Hess, whose family has owned a farm in the township since 1754 and a representative of Agway, said that the planning commission should "give it (agriculture) freedom with reasonable restrictions."

Grove again said that the two sides were basically representing different philosophical opinions of handling the farm-homeowner coexistence. He said if the board adopted the kind of policy Funk advocates many would be dissatisfied, and if there is anything less than that as a half way measure, there will

have to be regulations on farming.

John Hinkle questioned Grove on how the proposals coincide with the Right to Farm bill currently under consideration by the state legislature.

George Rettew, the township engineer said there was no real pressure to update the zoning proposals. He said he felt the township officials were being unjustly criticized in their intent. He said the intent was simply cost efficiency in running the flood plain regulations together with the proposed zoning changes.

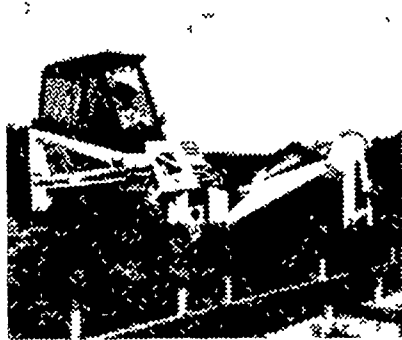
Grove said he didn't understand why the farmers had not given their input to the proposed changes prior to the meeting. Thomas responded to that by saying, "For crying out loud, this is the first public hearing, the first opportunity we've had, and we're here telling you to change it."

Thomas ended his pleas to the board on behalf of the farmers by saying, "There's no magic in September 24. Gentlemen, give it some more work."

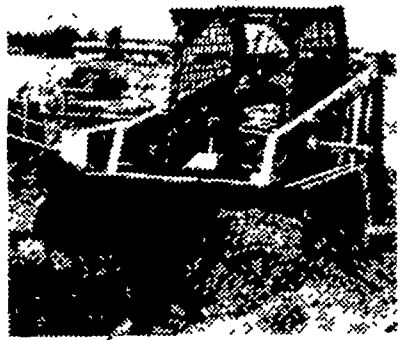
Mark Hess said following the meeting that farmers are going to have to become more concerned. He said "They shouldn't wait until a near crisis like this one before concerning themselves with preserving their

(Turn to Page A39)

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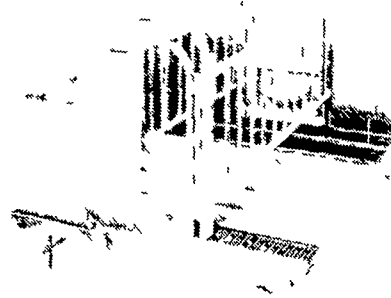
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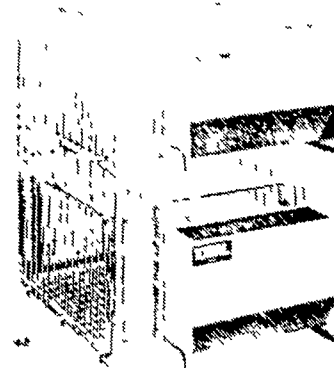


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