

**ADA TOWNSHIP PARKS, RECREATION AND LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF THE THURSDAY, JULY 12, 2018 REGULAR MEETING
4:00 P.M., ADA TOWNSHIP HALL, 7330 THORNAPPLE RIVER DR SE
ADA, MICHIGAN**

1. Call meeting to order/roll call

Present: Crosby, Roe, VandenBerge, Jacobs, Nowak, Steketee, Damstra (arrived at 4:05), Schmottlach (arrived at 4:25),

Absent: Haga, LeBlanc, Terwilliger

Staff Present: Ferro, Fitzpatrick, McCormick, Winczewski

Public Present: Judy Levick

2. Approval of agenda

Jacobs moved to approve agenda. Crosby supported. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Approval of minutes of April 12 and May 7 meetings

Steketee moved to approve minutes for April 12th regular meeting. Crosby supported. Motion carried unanimously.

Crosby moved to approve minutes for May 7th special meeting. Jacobs supported. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Review and approval of proposed standing committee structure

Board discussed the current committee structure. Going forward, the three standing committees will be:

1. **Trails (Non-Motorized Bike Paths)** – Roe stated that VandenBerge, Jacobs, and Nowak volunteered back in the December meeting to be on this committee.
2. **Land Preservation and Stewardship** – Roe, Crosby and Steketee volunteered to be on this committee. Ferro stated this committee could encourage property owners to donate conservation easements.
3. **Recreation Programs, Services and Facilities** – Schmottlach volunteered to be on this committee.

Ferro stated he would like to see some community members join the Trails committee. Damstra agreed and recommended reaching out to the community for volunteers for all three committees via website and word-of-mouth.

Ferro updated the board in regards to property on 2 Mile with high quality natural features that the Township has been interested in preserving in the past. The property owner decided to sell to their neighbors. Ferro stated that land is in good hands and will likely not be developed.

Crosby moved to approve the following three standing committees; 1) Trails (Non-Motorized Bike Paths), 2) Land Preservation and Stewardship, and 3) Recreation Programs, Services and Facilities. Jacobs seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Schedule for election of officers

Roe stated she will be stepping down as chair and would like to put on the calendar a formal election of officers at the first meeting in April, 2019. Board discussed term limits. Ferro will speak to Haga about getting term information for current members and volunteer forms for future committee members.

6. Schedule for Trail Plan update and trail millage renewal

Board discussed the 2020 trail millage renewal. Damstra recommended being proactive by getting an outside committee to raise money and awareness. Damstra stated SeyferthPR did an outstanding job with the last millage and recommends using them again.

7. Project Updates

Fitzpatrick updated the board on current projects as outlined in their packets. The Settler's Grove – Riverfront Park completion date has been pushed back to sometime this fall due to a change in the DEQ permit process. Some changes are being made to better stabilize the riverbank from erosion.

Damstra stated the sign and landscape improvements at Knapp's Corner Preserve look great. It was noted that measures may need to be taken to enhance the legibility of the letters on the sign.

8. Director's Report

Fitzpatrick gave additional updates on park planning initiatives and projects as outlined in their board packets. Community members can now submit recreational comments and ideas on a map of the Township at <https://communityremarks.com/adatownship/>, through July 22nd.

9. Public Comment

Judy Levick asked if the Riverfront Park has officially been named. Fitzpatrick stated it has not.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacqueline Smith, Township Clerk