

**ADA TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 8, 2015 MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 4:05pm by Chairperson Crosby.

Members present: Crosby, Damstra, Haga, LeBlanc (4:10 p.m.), Roe, Steketee

Members absent: Bergman, Ladd, VandenBerge

Staff present: Parks Director Fitzpatrick, Planning Director Ferro

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 13 AND DECEMBER 12, 2014 MEETINGS

It was moved by Haga, seconded by Roe, to approve the minutes of the November 13 and December 12 meetings, subject to correction of Fitzpatrick's name on page 2 of the November 13 minutes.

Motion passed unanimously

PROPOSAL FOR INVASIVE SPECIES WORKSHOP COLOR INSERT IN ADAVIEW NEWSLETTER

Fitzpatrick presented information regarding a request from the West Michigan Cluster of the Stewardship Network, now called West Michigan Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (WMCISMA), to place a color insert in the Adaview newsletter regarding a planned educational event they are organizing concerning invasive species control. Fitzpatrick stated the original goal was to have the insert in the Spring issue of the Adaview, but that it is now being planned for the June issue. Fitzpatrick stated the cost could be as little as \$200 if the color-printed inserts are provided to us, and there should be some cost-sharing funds available.

Following discussion, it was moved by Haga, seconded by Damstra, to authorize a not to exceed expenditure of \$1,000 for placement of a color insert in the Adaview newsletter.

Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF ENCROACHMENTS ON CARL CREEK CROSSING PRESERVE PROPERTY

Ferro presented photos of the property line staking completed by our engineer at the Carl Creek Crossing Preserve demonstrating that the covered bridge structure that was installed several years ago by the neighboring property owner is located entirely on the Township's property. Ferro stated he and Crosby met with the neighbor a few weeks ago on the property to review the staking. He stated that options ranging from leaving the bridge in place to asking for it to be removed were discussed. Ferro stated we indicated that the matter would be reviewed by the Advisory Board and the neighbor stated she would make a proposal to us for how to handle the matter.

Ferro distributed a written proposal from the neighbor, Gwen Beversluis, proposing to sell the bridge to the Township for a sum of \$3,500, and if this was not acceptable to the Township, she would relocate the bridge off the Township property.

In discussion, it was pointed out that the bridge was constructed on top of tree trunks laid across the stream, and it is not in great condition. It was also pointed out that the bridge was installed without having obtained a required permit from the Michigan DEQ.

Following discussion, it was moved by Haga, seconded by LeBlanc, to decline the offer to purchase the bridge, and to direct that correspondence be sent to the neighbor requesting that the bridge be removed.

Motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW OF PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015-16

Ferro presented a proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2015-16. He stated the budget projects total revenues of \$215,264 and expenditures of \$608,875. Ferro stated nearly all of the projected revenues are millage revenue. He also stated that the expenditures include the completion of the Carl Creek Crossing Preserve public access improvements, as well as \$400,000 budgeted as a “placeholder” for open space acquisition opportunities that may become available in the coming year.

In discussion, Fitzpatrick suggested that a higher amount be budgeted for supplies for open space stewardship activities, and for items such as property boundary marker posts and signs. The consensus of the Board was that the amount budgeted for the operating supplies/services line item be increased by \$600.

LeBlanc suggested that funds be budgeted for landscape improvements at the property acquired by the Township at the Knapp St. /Grand River Dr. intersection, given that this intersection serves as a “gateway” to the north end of the Township. Haga suggested budgeting \$5,000 for design services for the project, and there was a consensus to do so.

LeBlanc asked whether the property owner adjacent to the Township site who has the empty plastic barrels in the floodplain had been contacting about removing them. Ferro stated this had not been done yet, and that he would do so.

APPROVAL OF FY 2015-16 MEETING CALENDAR

Ferro presented a proposed meeting calendar for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2015, with meetings scheduled bi-monthly on the second Thursday of the month.

It was moved by Haga, seconded by LeBlanc, to approve the meeting schedule as presented.

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC AND MEMBER COMMENT

There was no public comment.

LeBlanc requested a status update regarding the potable water well investigations at Roselle Park.

Fitzpatrick reported that the test well resulted in a very acceptable well production capacity, but that the water quality suffers from elevated hardness and iron, which necessitate a treatment system. He stated that we are in the process of obtaining cost information for a treatment system, and pursuing the process of obtaining approval from the Health Department to use the well as a potable water supply.

LeBlanc asked whether Gary Vos had been contacted regarding assisting in relocation of the irrigation water pump house on the Carl Creek Crossing Preserve property. Crosby noted she had not done this yet and would make a point of doing so.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Burton Township Clerk
RS: bjc