

**ADA TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 11, 2007 MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 4:07 p.m.

PRESENT: Betty Jo Crosby, George Haga, Jamie Ladd, Matt Nygren, Bette Roberts, Elise Roe, Mischelle Sytsma.

ABSENT: Greg Forbes and Randy VanDragt

STAFF PRESENT: Planning Director Jim Ferro and Parks Director Wendy Tatar

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Moved by Ladd, seconded by Roe, to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2006 meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

STATUS REPORT – PROPERTIES OF INTEREST:

Ada Hospital for Animals property – Haga reported that the property is now in the ownership of the Township. The acquisition cost will be split 50 – 50 between the parks and land preservation components of the parks and land preservation millage fund. A license agreement was signed providing the veterinarians an access path to the river for 50-years. A phase-1 environmental assessment was completed with no concerns showing up.

Gilmore Property on Fulton St. – Ferro stated that John Gilmore has signed the quit-claim deed over to the Township for 2.6 acres along the Thornapple River. MDOT still insists that it does not own the adjoining former river bottom property. A title company has been contacted to research ownership of this land.

383 Pettis Avenue – Nothing new to report.

Other Properties of Interest – Ferro and Haga reported they had met with the realtor having the listing for the property at 851 Thornapple River Drive. The realtor states that the owner is not flexible on the price.

STATUS OF NATURAL FEATURES INVENTORY:

Ferro stated that the final report is not done yet and Dr. Warners is currently out of the country. Ladd requested that a thank you be sent to those property owners that participated in the inventory. There was discussion regarding the new Federal and State tax incentives for property owners that place a conservation easement on their property. It was decided that the thank you letter from the OSPAB should include information regarding these new incentives.

MARKETING/PROMOTION:

Crosby provided information from the National Wildlife Federation regarding their Community Wildlife Habitat program. She requested that all members read the information before the next meeting so the Advisory Board can consider whether to take on the project of getting the Township certified.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, February 8, at 4:00 pm

SET 2007 MEETING SCHEDULE:

Meeting dates for the remainder of the year were set, subject to change. The meeting dates for 2007 are: March 8, April 12, May 10, June 14, July 12, August 9, September 13, October 11, November 8, December 13. All meetings will be held at the Township Hall at 4:00 p.m.

MEMBER COMMENT:

Haga stated that a work session to discuss land use in the Township has been scheduled for January 17 at 4:00 p.m. in the Les Craig Learning Center located at Ada Park. All members of the OSPAB, the Planning Commission and the Board of Trustees are requested to participate.

Haga also announced that the Ada Business Association's Business Expo will be held on Saturday, March 24 from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm. The Township will have a table at the expo and educational materials on parks and open space will be available to the public. He stated that volunteers will be needed to man the booth.

Ferro stated that at the January 8th Board meeting, the Township Board approved Resolution of Intent to issue bonds to finance additional non-motorized trail construction in the Township.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Deborah Ensing Millhuff, CMC
Ada Township Clerk

rs:wt