

**ADA TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 18, 2006 MEETING**

Vice-chairman Elise Roe called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

PRESENT: Greg Forbes, George Haga, Jamie Ladd, Matt Nygren, Elise Roe, Mischelle Sytsma.

ABSENT: Betty Jo Crosby, Bette Roberts, and Randy Van Dragt

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Haga, seconded by Sytsma, moved to approve the minutes of the December 20th special meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION ON OPTIONING OF PROPERTY AT 383 PETTIS AVE. AND APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING

Ferro passed out a memo to members, regarding the proposed option agreement for this ¼-acre parcel on the Grand River. He explained that he and Haga had met with the realtor and had offered a purchase price of \$165,000, and an option period of 8 months. The Township Board will be requested to authorize the option at its meeting on January 23.

Ferro also explained that he had submitted a Letter of Interest to the State for a Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant regarding this property. He did hear from the State that they were requesting us to submit a full application. The application is due February 3. The State has to approve the application before it is sent to the Federal Government. The State is only able to submit five applications. It is expected that FEMA will take 2 – 3 months to review and act on the applications.

After much discussion it was decided that the proposed option period should be divided into two components, with an initial 30-day option period for a \$500 option cost, extendable to a full 8-months for an additional cost. This will lower the cost to the Township if the application is not selected by the State for forwarding on to the FEMA review.

It was moved by Forbes, seconded by Sytsma to recommend to the Board for their approval an option of \$2,500 on the property located at 383 Pettis Ave., with \$500 holding the property for 37 days (until March 3) and the remaining \$2,000 extending the hold for an additional 7 months. Motion passed unanimously.

Haga requested that Forbes fill out a property evaluation form to have on record.

It was moved by Ladd, seconded by Forbes to spend not more than \$1,500 to have a floor elevation survey drafted to submit with the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant. Motion passed unanimously.

SUPERVISOR REPORT REGARDING MODEL OPTION AGREEMENT

Haga stated that the Township attorney reviewed the Open Space ordinance regarding the members' concern that inclusion of an optional appraisal by the Township in determining purchase price may be keeping property owners from accepting our offers. Legal counsel's opinion is that the language concerning an optional appraisal could be removed from our proposed option agreements, without any conflict with the Open Space ordinance. Haga stated that he would discuss removal of the wording with the Administrative Committee for their recommendation.

STATUS OF KENT COUNTY PDR APPLICATIONS

Ferro reported that the Jakeway property might be recommended for a portion of the State funding received by Kent County. He was not sure if the County would be applying for federal funding. Haga asked when a decision would be made as the Township contribution would need to be placed in the upcoming budget. Ferro will continue to pursue information on the funding.

STATUS OF OTHER PROPERTIES OF INTEREST

Haga and Ferro reported on the status of discussions with several other property owners regarding their interest in open space preservation.

STATUS OF MARKETING EFFORTS

Roe stated that she would set up a meeting of the marketing subcommittee for February. She also reported that Vergennes Township has initiated an art contest that is open to everyone. Submissions of art work of natural features in either Kent or Ionia Counties qualifies.

MEMBER AND STAFF COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public in attendance.

The next meeting was scheduled for March 29 at 4:00 p.m.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Deborah Ensing Millhuff, CMC
Ada Township Clerk

rs:jf