

**ADA TOWNSHIP  
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 4, 2011 SPECIAL MEETING**

A special meeting of the Open Space Preservation Advisory Board was held on Friday, February 4, 2011. The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Chairperson Betty Jo Crosby at the Ada Township Offices, 7330 Thornapple River Dr., Ada, MI.

**PRESENT:** Betty Jo Crosby, Randy Damstra, George Haga, Jamie Ladd, Elise Roe, Rick Steketee, Mischelle Sytsma, Jeff VandenBerge

**ABSENT:** Randy VanDragt

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jim Ferro, Planning Director  
Mark Fitzpatrick, Parks Director

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Rob Cumming, 5680 Grand River Dr.

**CONSIDERATION OF OPTION TO PURCHASE REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 6230 GRAND RIVER DR. AND 6195 E. FULTON ST.**

Crosby stated that the special meeting was called to consider whether the Advisory Board wished to recommend a course of action on the possible acquisition of the Bottrall and Vos properties fronting on Carl Creek, between Fulton St. and Grand River Dr. Crosby pointed out some of the reasons for considering purchase of the property for open space protection purposes, including protection of water quality in small streams such as Carl Creek, preservation of habitat in wetlands adjoining the creek, and preventing storm water runoff surges from development that would be damaging to the creek. Crosby also pointed out that the Township previously acquired 34 acres of land upstream on Carl Creek, for these same purposes.

Crosby stated that prior to considering going into a closed session to discuss possible real estate acquisition, she wished to entertain public comment.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Rob Cumming, 5680 Grand River Dr. stated that he has been considering possible purchase of the Bottrall and Vos properties for development. He pointed out that the sites are one of the few areas of vacant land along Fulton St. with access to public water and sewer. He stated he believed the property could be developed in a way that would preserve the natural character of the creek corridor.

There was no other public comment.

**MOTION TO PROCEED TO CLOSED SESSION TO CONSIDER PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 6230 GRAND RIVER DR. AND 6195 EAST FULTON ST., PRIOR TO OPTION TO PURCHASE.**

Following public comment, it was moved by Damstra, seconded by Sytsma, to go into a closed session for purposes of discussing potential real estate acquisition.

On a roll call vote, the motion was approved by a 7-0 vote, with Crosby, Damstra, Haga, Ladd, Steketee, Sytsma and VandenBerge all voting "Aye." Roe was not present.

The Advisory Board then went into a closed session.

Roe arrived at the closed session at 4:10 p.m.

Following the closed session, it was moved by Steketee, seconded by Ladd, to return to open session.

Motion passed by a 8-0 vote.

**CONTINUED CONSIDERATION OF OPTION TO PURCHASE REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 6230 GRAND RIVER DR. AND 6195 E. FULTON ST.**

After discussion regarding the possible terms of an option agreement to purchase the Bottrall property, it was moved by Damstra, seconded by VandenBerge, to recommend that an option agreement be proposed to the owner of the Bottrall property, giving the Township the right to purchase the property for \$60,000, subject to due diligence, including a Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment.

Sytsma left the meeting prior to the vote on the motion.

Motion carried by a 6-0 vote, with VandenBerge abstaining, after disclosing that his business employs a member of the Bottrall family.

Following discussion of potential terms of an option agreement to purchase the Vos property, it was moved by VandenBerge, seconded by Steketee, to recommend that the Township propose an option agreement to purchase the Vos property, with the proposed purchase price the lesser of \$150,000 or the value as determined by an appraisal process, and subject to due diligence including a Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment.

Motion carried by unanimous 7-0 vote.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Susan Burton  
Township Clerk

RS: jf