

**ADA TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 10, 2011 MEETING**

A regular meeting of the Open Space Preservation Advisory Board was held on Thursday, February 10, 2011. The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairperson Betty Jo Crosby at the Ada Township Offices, 7330 Thornapple River Dr., Ada, MI.

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 13, FEBRUARY 3 AND FEBRUARY 4 MEETINGS

It was moved by Sytsma, seconded by Roe, to approve the minutes of the January 13 meeting as presented.

Motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Sytsma, seconded by Roe, to approve the minutes of the February 3 meeting, subject to grammatical and spelling corrections.

Motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Steketee, seconded by Sytsma, to approve the minutes of the February 4 meeting, subject to grammatical and spelling corrections.

Motion passed unanimously.

STATUS OF BOTTRALL AND VOS PROPERTY OPTION AGREEMENTS

Haga and Ferro reported on efforts to obtain option agreements on the Bottrall and Vos properties. Ferro stated that an option agreement has been entered into for possible acquisition of the Bottrall property, and a proposed option agreement has been presented to Gary Vos, who has indicated he will try to respond to our offer by the end of the week. Haga reported on the meeting he and Ferro held with Gary Vos.

The Advisory Board discussed the possibility of the Township needing to respond to a counterproposal from Vos, and whether further Advisory Board action would be necessary to respond to a counteroffer. In discussion, the consensus was that the Supervisor should have the flexibility to negotiate the terms of an option agreement, without the need for further action by the Advisory Board.

Following discussion, it was moved by Ladd, seconded by Roe, to direct the Township Supervisor to negotiate the terms of an option agreement for purchase of the property, within the authorized maximum consideration for the option of \$500, subject to Advisory Board recommendation as to whether any purchase option obtained should be exercised.

Motion passed unanimously.

MARKETING/PROMOTION

Forest Hills Community Expo – Saturday, March 19, 2011, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Ferro stated that a sign-up sheet for volunteer booth sitters would be available at the March Advisory Board meeting.

Adaview Newsletter Article

Ferro distributed copies of the Township newsletter article which will be published in March, reporting on the US. Congress' extension of the expired Federal income tax benefit for donated conservation easements.

MEMBER AND STAFF COMMENTS/REPORTS

Update on Contracting for Services with Land Conservancy of West Michigan

Ferro reported that April Scholtz at the Land Conservancy is researching to find sample contract language for use in developing an agreement for services between the Township and the Land Conservancy.

Potential Partnership with Forest Hills Public Schools for Invasive Species Control on School Properties.

Crosby reported she has no new information regarding the above.

Mark Fitzpatrick reported on several upcoming stewardship work days, including:

Saturday, May 14: Stewardship Network, West Michigan Cluster Garlic Mustard pull.

Tuesday, May 17: 9:00 a.m.: Stewardship Volunteer Day at the Carl Creek Wetland Preserve.

He also reported that the Grand River Cleanup day in the fall is potentially being expanded to include Ottawa County, in partnership with Ottawa County Parks.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Burton
Township Clerk

RS: jf