

**ADA TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 12, 2009 MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 4:08 p.m. by Chairperson Betty Jo Crosby.

PRESENT: Betty Jo Crosby, George Haga, Jamie Ladd, Rick Steketee, Jeff Vandenberg, Randy VanDragt, Elise Roe

ABSENT: Randy Damstra, Mischelle Sytsma

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

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 8, 2009 MEETING

It was moved by Ladd, seconded by VanDragt, to approve the minutes of the January 8 meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

STATUS REPORT ON OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION PROJECTS

1. 383 Pettis Ave. Property Acquisition

Ferro reported there has been no change in the status of the acquisition. He referenced the grant agreement provisions stating that we have until February 28, 2010 to complete the project.

Ladd asked whether Ferro had conducted a site inspection of the sanitary waste holding tank. Ferro stated he had not.

Haga reported he had just learned from the Assessor that the property has been foreclosed upon.

Ladd asked whether we have a written offer to the property owner. Ferro stated we did, but that it was months old and probably expired. Ladd suggested getting another offer to the owner.

2. Gilmore/MDOT Property on former Thornapple River – Status of Title

Ferro reported we have not yet obtained the mortgage release on the property donated to the Township by John Gilmore.

3. Conservation Easement at Raj and Sunita Agrawal Property at 3201 Egypt Valley Ave.

Ferro stated he received e-mail correspondence from Raj Agrawal, stating that he is in the process of having an appraisal of the property and the easement value completed.

STATUS OF POTENTIAL PROJECTS

1. Conservation Easement on Vanderwarf Family Trust Property at 2025 and 2200 Honey Creek.

Ferro reported that an amendment to the appraisal services agreement with Soper & Associates has been signed, to provide revised values for the development rights on the VanderWarf properties without the reserved lot split and home site exceptions that were assumed in the original appraisal. Ferro also stated he had been contacted by a realtor who is discussing with the family the possibility of listing some or all of the property for sale.

He stated that the appointed Subcommittee would be reviewing the revised appraisal information to develop a recommended offer to the VanderWarfs.

2. Nominated Property at 5504 Ada Dr. and Roberts Property at 2455 Pettis Ave.

It was noted that on site evaluation of these two properties will be accomplished in the Spring.

MARKETING/PROMOTION

1. Joint Public Information Meeting with Vergennes Township and United Growth for Kent County

The preliminary program description for the planned March 21 joint event with Vergennes Township and United Growth was reviewed and discussed. It was noted that invitations to the event would be mailed to owners of large properties in Ada Township.

The possibility of Ada Township's contributing some funds to the costs of the event was discussed. It was suggested that Kendra Wills should submit a request for sponsorship and a proposed sponsor amount to the Township.

It was noted that the large, indoor private sports facility that is proposed in Vergennes Township near the Ada Township boundary may be discussed as part of the program. Ferro noted that Vergennes Township has informed our Planning Commission about this proposal and invited our comments on the proposal.

2. Draft Marketing Plan

The Advisory Board reviewed and discussed the draft marketing goals and objectives that were prepared by a Subcommittee consisting of members Roe and Steketee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting of the Advisory Board is scheduled for Thursday, March 12.

Volunteers were assigned to work on various aspects of the draft document as follows:

Crosby and Steketee will work on Item 4. education plan.

Ferro will work on Item 1, updating open space protection priorities.

Haga will work on Item 3., funding projections.

VanDragt will work on a combination of Items 2 and 5, integrating open space protection, water and wetlands protection and cleanup, and a green infrastructure approach.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Susan Burton
Ada Township Clerk
rs:jf