

**ADA TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 14, 2013 MEETING**

A regular meeting of the Open Space Preservation Advisory Board was held on Thursday, February 14, 2013. The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Chairperson Betty Jo Crosby at the Ada Township Offices, 7330 Thornapple River Dr., Ada, MI.

PRESENT: Dan Bergman, Betty Jo Crosby, Randy Damstra, George Haga, Jamie Ladd, Elise Roe

ABSENT: Paul Leblanc, Rick Steketee, Jeff VandenBerge

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

PUBLIC PRESENT: 3

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 10, 2013 MEETING

Crosby stated that on page 2 of the minutes, the members appointed to the subcommittee should state "Ferro, Crosby and Bergman." It was moved by Roe, seconded by Bergman, to approve the minutes of the January 10 meeting, subject to the revision as noted by Crosby. Motion passed unanimously.

STATUS OF CALVIN COLLEGE VIDEO PRODUCTION PROJECT

Crosby stated since we have guests from Calvin College, she would move this item up on the agenda. Crosby introduced Jake Bosmeijer, Chief Engineer at the Calvin College Devos Communications Center, who is working with the student group producing a marketing video for our open space program.

Bosmeijer summarized the meetings he has had with Crosby and Ferro, and the initial work that has been done on the project. He stated that based on the information we have provided regarding the intended audiences and uses for the video, his goal is a video in the 3-5 minute range in length. Bosmeijer stated that in addition to shooting video of some of the Township's open space properties, they would like to also include brief interviews with the Calvin College biologists who have worked on open space inventory work in the Township, as well as interviews with some citizens.

Bosmeijer noted the semester schedule is such that the video shooting needs to be completed in the next few weeks, so that editing in the lab can begin. He stated this schedule will not allow them to obtain any video during the spring season when vegetation is emerging. The possibility of engaging students after the semester ends to shoot some additional video for future revisions to the final product was discussed.

Bosmeijer introduced Calvin students Sandra Zegarra and Jacob McGarry, who are part of the student group working on the project.

PROPERTY AT 7535 AND 7567 FASE ST.

Ferro summarized the results of the site visit and evaluation of the Fase property conducted by the subcommittee, and noted that the average rating on our point system placed the property within the high end of the range of all properties we have rated in the past.

Ferro reviewed the proposals he obtained for completing appraisals on both properties. It was noted that we would need to obtain permission from the property owners for an appraiser to inspect the properties.

Following discussion, it was moved by Haga, seconded by Ladd, that John A. Meyer Appraisal Co. be engaged to complete appraisals of the two properties.

Motion passed unanimously.

Fitzpatrick commented on the loss of ash trees on the property and in the Grand River Nature Preserve, due to the emerald ash borer. He stated that ash trees are a high percentage of the trees on the property, and the loss of these trees will change the vegetation mix in the river floodplain.

APPROVAL OF MEETING SCHEDULE FOR FY 2013-14

In review of the proposed meeting schedule, Fitzpatrick noted that the August meeting date should be the 8th. It was moved by Damstra, seconded by Haga, to approve the meeting schedule as corrected.

MEMBER AND STAFF COMMENTS/REPORTS

Ferro reported on the Township Board's adoption of an ordinance amendment removing term limits for Advisory Board members.

Ferro and Fitzpatrick reported on a meeting held with volunteers from the North Country Trail Association, regarding interest in revising the route of the North Country Trail to run through the northeastern portion of Ada Township, using the Township's paved trails on Conservation St. and Honey Creek Ave., to connect to and through Seidman Park and the Cannonsburg State Game Area.

Ferro noted that the planned corridor for the North Country Trail formerly went through the northeastern portion of the Township, in the 1980's, and that at some point in the 1990's the planned route was shifted to the east to the Lowell area. He stated that there is now interest in shifting it back to the west again. Ferro stated that the Association will be sending us a draft of a potential Memorandum of Understanding that would define our relationship and mutual responsibilities in establishing and managing the trail route. Ferro stated the Association is also discussing this with Cannon Township and Kent County Parks. It was noted this proposal should be reviewed by the Trail Committee.

Crosby reported on a meeting she and Jeff VandenBerge had recently with the Director of the West Michigan Trails & Greenways Alliance, regarding their fund-raising efforts to complete a regional trail network within the next few years, after which their mission will be accomplished.

Haga reported that a presentation by the Michigan DEQ, arranged by State Representative Lisa Lyons, has been scheduled for March 18, at 6:30 p.m. at the Township offices, on the subject of oil and gas leases on State lands and hydraulic fracturing.

Ferro was requested to send an email to Advisory Board members seeking volunteers for booth duty at the Forest Hills Community Expo on March 16.

PUBLIC COMMENT. None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Burton
Township
Clerk
RS: jf