

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

A regular meeting of the Open Space Preservation Advisory Board was held on Thursday, March 10, 2011. 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:** Betty Jo Crosby, George Haga, Jamie Ladd, Rick Steketee, Mischelle Sytsma, Jeff VandenBerge, Randy VanDragt

**ABSENT:** Randy Damstra, Elise Roe

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

**APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 10 AND FEBRUARY 21, 2011 MEETING MINUTES**

It was moved by Steketee, seconded by Ladd, to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2011 meeting as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

It was moved by Sytsma, seconded by VandenBerge, to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2011 meeting as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

**AMENDMENT OF AGENDA**

It was moved by VanDragt, seconded by Ladd, to amend the agenda to include consideration of possible property acquisition at 1780 Grand River Dr., and to add a status report on the Raymond property. Motion passed unanimously.

**STATUS OF PROJECTS**

Ferro reported that Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessments have been ordered for both the Bottrall and Vos properties. In addition, title insurance commitments have been received for both properties, and there are no significant title issues with either property. Ferro stated there are several recorded utility easements on the Vos property, as well as a recorded easement for the irrigation line and pump house serving the adjacent condominium property. Ferro was requested to obtain additional information regarding the irrigation system, including whether it is still in operation, and whether the condo association would be interested in abandoning the system.

The Board discussed the possibility of placing a conservation easement on the Bottrall and Vos properties, as an additional means of ensuring its permanent preservation in a natural condition. Ferro was requested to discuss this possibility with April Scholtz of the Land Conservancy.

Ferro also reported on status of the Cooper family property, the former Raymond family property and the VanderWarf family property.

**POTENTIAL PROPERTY FOR CONSIDERATION ON GRAND RIVER DR. NE**

Ferro and Haga reported on a contact from the owner of a property adjacent to Roselle Park on Grand River Dr. regarding possible Township interest in acquisition. In discussion, staff was requested to obtain additional information from the property owner. Park Director Fitzpatrick suggested that we obtain an option on the entire property, so that alternative uses of the property could be evaluated during the update of the Roselle Park Master Plan scheduled for this spring.

## **MARKETING/PROMOTION**

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

Volunteers for hosting the Township's booth at the Community Expo were requested.

- b. Draft Letter to Targeted Property Owners

Crosby suggested that a mailing to property owners be postponed until after acquisition of the Bottrall and Vos properties is completed this spring. Ladd stated he would provide Ferro with a letter used at a land trust on Cape Cod.

## **6. Member and Staff Comments/Reports**

Crosby mentioned that we need to schedule site visits to the Bielema property on Fulton St. VanDragt indicated that the timing for site visits should be targeted to late April or early May, when new vegetation is emerging.

Crosby reported on contacts with various school site representatives regarding invasive species control on school properties.

Crosby also reported she has discussed with Tom Korth, Planning Commission Chairman, her interest in scheduling a joint meeting between the Advisory Board and the Planning Commission, to discuss the riparian protection regulations. Korth stated he likes the idea and will discuss it with the Planning Commission.

Ferro reported on a request from the Izaak Walton League chapter to promote an upcoming public workshop on wetland restoration and federal funding available. Ferro stated information will be posted on our web site.

Fitzpatrick reported on an upcoming statewide Watershed Summit in East Lansing on March 30, as well as the Grand River/Thornapple River Cleanup Day scheduled for September 17. He also reported he is recruiting for a part-time weekend position in the Parks Department, for a park caretaker, and a Stewardship Coordinator position that is open at the Land Conservancy.

Crosby mentioned the passing of former Advisory Board member Bette Roberts. The Advisory Board discussed possible means of honoring her memory. Fitzpatrick will develop a coordinated approach to a memorial to Roberts and others for whom memorials have been discussed.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Susan Burton  
Township Clerk  
RS: jf