

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

A regular meeting of the Open Space Preservation Advisory Board was held on Thursday, March 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, George Haga, Paul Leblanc, Elise Roe, Rick Steketee, Jeff VandenBerge

ABSENT: Jamie Ladd, Randy Damstra

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

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 14, 2013 MEETING

It was moved by VandenBerge, seconded by Roe, to approve the minutes of the February 14 meeting, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

STATUS OF PROPERTY AT 7535 AND 7567 FASE ST.

Ferro reported that both property owners have agreed to allow appraisals to be completed by the Township, and that the appraiser has been given the go-ahead to start the project.

A question was asked whether the appraisals would be completed prior to the next Advisory Board meeting. Ferro replied he was not certain.

UPDATE ON OTHER PROPERTIES/CANDIDATE PROPERTIES

Ferro reported there has been no activity with regard to the Vanderboon property adjacent to the north of Roselle Park, or the Cooper property on Bailey Dr. He reported he mailed an article from the Wall St. Journal regarding the tax benefits of conservation easements to Cooper. Ferro reported he would have this article and a similar news article from the Land Conservancy of West Michigan on display at the Forest Hills Community Expo.

Ferro reported that we still need to follow up with Gary Vos regarding his possible assistance in modifying the irrigation system water withdrawal on the Carl Creek Crossing Preserve, and meet with Road Commission staff regarding required driveway access improvements at the Carl Creek Crossing and Carl Creek Wetland Preserves, so that the Master Plans for those properties can be completed.

Crosby asked whether contact had been made with the property owner adjacent to the Carl Creek Wetland Preserve on Alta Dale regarding the possibility of obtaining an easement across a portion of their property, in order to reduce the amount and cost of boardwalk needed to cross wetlands on the Preserve.

Ferro stated he believed he brought the subject up with Mrs. Ehnis when he talked to her about our preliminary plan, but that no commitment had been obtained.

MEMBER AND STAFF COMMENTS/REPORTS

- a. Status of Calvin College Video Production Project

Ferro reported he had requested a status update from the instructor prior to today's meeting, but had not received anything. Crosby noted she had been contacted by Jake Bosmeijer about being interviewed on-camera.

b. Forest Hills Community Expo – March 16 – Booth Plans and Volunteers

The schedule for booth volunteers was discussed.

c. Schedule for Spring Preserve and Parks Stewardship Volunteer Days

Fitzpatrick proposed a volunteer stewardship outing date of Tuesday, April 23 for the Carl Creek Crossing Preserve. Crosby reported that Kent County Parks is holding the Seidman Park garlic mustard pull event on Saturday, April 27. Fitzpatrick distributed a schedule of educational workshops throughout the year put on by the West Michigan Cluster of the Stewardship Network.

PUBLIC COMMENT None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Burton
Township
Clerk
RS: jf