

**ADA TOWNSHIP  
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES OF THE MARCH 29, 2006 MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Betty Jo Crosby, Greg Forbes, George Haga, Jamie Ladd, Bette Roberts, Elise Roe, Mischelle Sytsma.

**ABSENT:** Matt Nygren and Randy Van Dragt

**STAFF PRESENT:** Planning Director Jim Ferro and Parks Director Wendy Tatar.

**STATUS REPORT ON PROPERTIES OF INTEREST**

Forbes led a discussion regarding the property on Fulton Street along the Grand River owned by Dr. Bielema. There is great concern by all members of the Advisory Board regarding the disruption of the wooded floodplain along the river. Ladd stated that this destruction of natural features demonstrates the need to strengthen the riparian protection regulations. Sytsma stated she was willing to bring up the matter with the Planning Commission. Haga suggested that the Open Space Preservation Advisory Board request that the Township Board give direction to the Planning Commission regarding amending the ordinance. A suggestion was made that Mike Worm from the DEQ be contacted to look at the property.

A home construction site on Honey Creek Avenue involving clearing of steep, wooded hills adjacent to Honey Creek was cited by Forbes as another example of the need to remove the exemption for existing properties from the Riparian Buffer ordinance. Forbes stated that tree removal at this site caused erosion into the creek, which resulted in a fish kill, according to neighbors of the site.

Moved by Sytsma, seconded by Roe, to recommend that the Township Board request the Planning Commission to re-examine and consider removing the broad exemption for existing properties contained within the riparian protection regulations, in light of the serious disruption of natural riparian features that has been recently observed in the Township.

Motion unanimously approved.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Ladd, seconded by Forbes, moved to approve the minutes of the January 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. Motion passed.

**STATUS REPORT ON PROPERTIES OF INTEREST CONTINUED**

Ferro reported that he had been contacted by the realtor representing the homeowner at 383 Pettis Ave. This is the property for which a grant application has been submitted to the State for funding to purchase the property. The owner of the home has decided that he wants to move sooner than he had anticipated before. The application was approved by the State and sent on to the Federal Government. Notice of accepted applications will not be given until sometime in May.

A meeting with the veterinarians that purchased the FOP property is scheduled for April 20.

It was suggested that contact be made with the representative from Alticor that oversees the property located at Honey Creek Avenue and Four Mile Road.

Mention was made that the Carew property located on Ada Dr. was still off the market while family legal matters were being taken care of. An appraisal has not been ordered yet, according to Ladd.

It was reported that no action was taken by the Planning Commission regarding the development application for the property adjacent to Carl Creek, on Alta Dale Ave.

Ferro stated that the County was still waiting to hear from the Federal Government regarding the grant application schedule for PDR funding on the Jakeway property.

A question was raised regarding the property on Two Mile Road where the RV storage facility is proposed. Sytsma reported that the Planning Commission granted a special use permit to the owners with strict limitations on what they can do. Storage of vehicles will only take place on three acres. The remainder of the 80-acre parcel must remain undeveloped.

#### **ARRANGEMENTS FOR NATURAL FEATURES INVENTORY**

VanDragt will not be returning from sabbatical until mid-July and the inventory must be started before then. Ferro reported that he has contacted Dave Warners, a biology professor at Calvin College who will be on the project team, regarding the planned schedule for the project.

#### **ADAVIEW NEWSLETTER ARTICLE**

Ferro stated that an article was submitted for inclusion in the spring issue of the Adaview. The newsletter is currently at the printers and will be distributed in the April 19<sup>th</sup> issue of the *Forest Hills Advance*. Ferro stated that he was not sure if the entire article would be printed, as it was quite lengthy.

Crosby stated that she has completed the annual report and would like all members to review it.

#### **STATUS OF EDUCATIONAL/MARKETING EFFORTS**

Ferro had a copy of the brochure that was printed when the millage for open space preservation was being sought. He stated that the remainder of these brochures was distributed at the recent Ada Business Expo held at the Forest Hills Fine Arts Center. He suggested that the brochure be updated so that it could be distributed to the public at the Arts in Ada and Fourth of July events.

Tatar announced that there would be an Earth Day clean up of Roselle Park on Saturday, April 22 beginning at 9:00 a.m. She also announced that a prescribed burn of a portion of the fen located at Ada Park will take place sometime this spring and a program to inform the public of why burning is important to prairies will be held on April 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.

Crosby announced that Vergennes Township would have a meeting on April 26. A reception and viewing of the art submitted to their contest will be at 6:15 p.m.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

The next meeting was scheduled for Friday, April 28 at 4:00 p.m. Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Deborah Ensing Millhuff, CMC  
Ada Township Clerk

rs:jf