

**ADA TOWNSHIP  
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES OF THE APRIL 8, 2010 MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 4:25 p.m. by Chairperson Betty Jo Crosby.

**PRESENT:** Betty Jo Crosby, Jamie Ladd, Rick Steketee, Mischelle Sytsma, Randy VanDragt

**ABSENT:** Randy Damstra, George Haga, Elise Roe, Jeff Vandenberg

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

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** Dan Botruff

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved by consent.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MARCH 11, 2010 MEETING**

It was moved by Ladd, seconded by Sytsma, to approve the minutes of the March 11 meeting.

Motion approved unanimously.

**DISCUSSION OF BOTRUFF PROPERTY AT 8695 CONSERVATION ST.**

Dan Botruff was present to discuss with the Advisory Board his interest in placing a conservation easement on his property at 8695 Conservation St., on Winding Brook private road extending north from Conservation St.

Ferro stated he has been discussing the possibility of a conservation easement with Mr. Botruff. He noted that the property includes frontage on Honey Creek, as well as part of a small seasonal tributary that feeds into Honey Creek. The seasonal tributary extends on to adjoining property.

Board members reviewed an aerial photo of the property.

The consensus of the Board was that the property merited further investigation and a site visit to evaluate the site according to our site evaluation and rating system. It was also noted that a coordinated effort to involve the adjoining property in an easement would be beneficial, to include the entire seasonal stream corridor.

Mr. Botruff invited Board members to visit the site at any time. Crosby stated Mr. Botruff would hear from the Township when site visits are scheduled.

**STATUS OF PROJECTS**

**1. 383 Pettis Ave. Property Acquisition**

Ferro distributed a planned schedule for completion of demolition and site restoration on the 383 Pettis property. He noted that the project was advertised for bids this week, the bid opening date is in late April, and the schedule calls for completion of the project by the end of June. Ferro also noted that the site restoration plan calls for planting a native grass mix on the site.

VanDragt suggested that we include some native shrub plantings on the site, to provide greater habitat value. Ferro stated he would pursue this.

**2. Raymond Property on Pettis Ave.**

Ferro distributed the letter he has sent to the owner of the Raymond property, expressing the Township's interest in acquiring a conservation easement on the property, subject to negotiation of acceptable

easement terms, and approval by the Township Board. The intent is for this letter to be provided to possible buyers who may be interested in purchasing the property with a conservation easement already in place on the property.

The Board discussed other possible alternatives for protecting the open space values of the property. A Subcommittee comprised of VanDragt, Sytsma and Ladd was appointed to investigate alternatives.

**3. Racine Property at 4950 Knapp St. NE**

Ferro reported there has been no further activity on this property since the owner turned down the Township's offer.

**4. Gilmore Property on Thornapple River**

Ferro reported he has been in discussion with Rick Rankin regarding obtaining the needed mortgage release on the property, and has been assured that it will happen soon.

**5. Bijkerk-Pippen Property at Grand River Dr./Knapp**

Ferro reported there has been no further activity on this property since he provided the owner with a sample conservation easement.

**DISCUSSION OF BROCHURE MAILING AND FOLLOW-UP ACTION STRATEGY**

Crosby updated the Board on copies of the marketing brochure that she has distributed to representatives from surrounding communities. Ferro stated that we are ready to complete the mailing to all Township households at any time.

Board members discussed conducting a follow-up mailing to one or more targeted geographic areas in the Township, coupled with holding of informational meetings with the targeted subareas.

**MEMBER AND STAFF COMMENTS/REPORTS**

A volunteer effort to complete property line marking at the Carl Creek Wetland Preserve was set for Friday, April 16, at 4:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Susan Burton  
Ada Township Clerk  
rs:jf