

**ADA TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF THE APRIL 16, 2009 MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairperson Betty Jo Crosby.

PRESENT: Betty Jo Crosby, George Haga, Jamie Ladd, Elise Roe, Rick Steketee, Mischelle Sytsma, Jeff Vandenberg

ABSENT: Randy Damstra, Randy Van Dragt

STAFF PRESENT: Jim Ferro, Planning Director

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MARCH 12, 2009 MEETING

It was moved by Ladd, seconded by Roe, to approve the minutes of the March 12 meeting.

Motion approved unanimously.

STATUS REPORT ON OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION PROJECTS

- a. 383 Pettis Ave. Property Acquisition

Ferro reported that no change in the status of this property.

Ladd suggested contacting Congressman Ehlers' office for assistance in contacting Fannie Mae.

- b. Gilmore/MDOT Property on former Thornapple River – Status of Title

Ferro reported no change in the status of obtaining a mortgage release on the property deeded to the Township by John Gilmore.

4. Status of Potential Projects

- a. Conservation Easement on VanderWarf Family Trust Property at 2025 and 2200 Honey Creek.

Ferro provided Board members with copies of the informal written offer that has been presented to the VanderWarf family.

- b. Nominated Property at 5504 Ada Dr.

- c. Roberts Property at 2455 Pettis Ave.

No new information on the above properties.

- d. Thornapple River Property at 851 Thornapple River Dr.

Ferro stated that he had not yet verified whether the Thornapple Association had contracted to buy the property.

- e. Raymond Property at 180 Pettis Ave. SE

Ferro reported he has been contacted by a party who is interested in purchasing a 20-acre site with a home on Honey Creek, and is interested in the potential for placing a conservation easement on the property. He further stated that the potential buyer suggested the possibility of the Township purchasing a conservation easement on the property from the current owner, who would then be able to sell it to the buyer for a

lower price, and pass on property tax benefits to the new owner in the form of a capped taxable value, as provided in the State property tax law.

Ferro stated that the Advisory Board should consider whether the possible purchase of a conservation easement should be further investigated. If the Board wishes to pursue the idea further, the next step would be to conduct an on-site evaluation of the property and its natural features against our property rating criteria.

The consensus of the Board was that a preliminary evaluation of the property should be completed. Ferro stated he would schedule site visits for interested Advisory Board members, prior to next month's meeting.

5. Marketing/Promotion

Betty Jo Crosby reported on the status of work on an updated open space brochure for the Township, and displayed some of the art work that has been produced by Goodwillie Environmental School students for use in the brochure.

Work on the brochure will continue at the Committee level.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted:

Susan Burton
Ada Township Clerk
rs:jf