

**ADA TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF THE MAY 9, 2013 MEETING**

A regular meeting of the Open Space Preservation Advisory Board was held on Thursday, May 9, 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, Jamie Ladd, Paul Leblanc, Elise Roe

ABSENT: Randy Damstra, Rick Steketee, Jeff VandenBerge

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

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE APRIL 11, 2013 MEETING

It was moved by Leblanc, seconded by Bergman, to approve the minutes of the April 11 meeting, as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

PROPERTY AT 7535 AND 7567 FASE ST.

Ferro stated that members had received summary pages from the appraisals completed for the properties at 7535 and 7567 Fase St. He noted that the appraisals are exempt from public disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, unless the Advisory Board decides to publicly disclose them.

The consensus of the Board was to treat the appraisals as confidential information, exempt from disclosure, at this time.

It was moved by Haga, seconded by Leblanc, to go into a closed session, to consider the purchase of real property at 7535 and 7567 Fase St.

Motion passed by roll call vote, with Bergman, Crosby, Haga, Ladd, Leblanc and Roe voting yes. None voting no.

Following the closed session, it was moved by Haga, seconded by Leblanc, to return to open session.

Motion passed.

The Advisory Board discussed option for making a purchase offer or an offer for an option to acquire one or both of the properties under consideration.

Following discussion, it was moved by Leblanc, seconded by Haga, to direct staff to propose an option agreement for acquisition of the property at 7535 Fase St., with a proposed purchase price based on the results of the appraisal.

Motion passed unanimously.

UPDATE ON OTHER PROPERTIES OF INTEREST

Ferro reported on property adjacent to the north end of Ada Township Park that is currently on the market. He stated that the rear portion of the property has wetlands that are an extension of the wetlands that are located in the park, and asked the Board to consider whether efforts should be made to acquire the rear portion of the property to become part of the park. Comment was made that the wetlands are not very vulnerable to development, which would tend to reduce the priority ranking of the property for acquisition.

The suggestion was made to contact the realtor and discuss whether the property owner might consider placing a conservation easement on the property.

Ferro stated he and Fitzpatrick would also seek permission from the owner to walk the property.

STATUS OF CALVIN COLLEGE VIDEO PRODUCTION PROJECT

The Advisory Board reviewed the “draft” video produced by the student team from Calvin College. Comments made included the suggestion to include more actual footage of natural features, and less emphasis on the “whiteboard” graphics, and correction of the name of the Land Conservancy of West Michigan.

PUBLIC COMMENT None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Burton Township Clerk
RS: jf