

**ADA TOWNSHIP  
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES OF THE MAY 10, 2012 MEETING**

A regular meeting of the Open Space Preservation Advisory Board was held on Thursday, April 12, 2012. 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, Elise Roe, Jeff VandenBerge

**ABSENT:** Randy Damstra, Paul Leblanc, Rick Steketee

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

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE APRIL 12, 2012 MEETING**

It was moved by Roe, seconded by VandenBerge, to approve the minutes of the April 12 meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

**STATUS OF PROJECTS.**

Carl Creek Crossing Property

Ferro reported that he met with members of the Country Homes of Ada Condominium Association Board to inspect the irrigation system pump house on Carl Creek. He stated that the Condo Association is going to ask their irrigation contractor to provide a quote for relocation of the pump house to the east side of the creek and place piping underground. Ferro stated that he agreed to look into costs of demolishing the existing pump house. Ferro suggested that we look into obtaining donated demolition services. Ferro will contact the property manager to see if there has been any progress in obtaining a quote from the irrigation contractor. Ferro also reported that the property identification sign for the Fulton St. frontage is being produced by Carlson Design.

Racine Property at 4980 Knapp St.

Ferro reported there has been no activity regarding this property. Haga suggested that the Township request that the open windows be boarded up to secure the property from entry.

Ferro also reported he contacted the adjacent property owner regarding the barrels that are located in the floodplain on that property, and the owner informed him that they are all empty, and are used by their children in outdoor play activities.

Cooper Property

Ferro reported there has been no activity regarding this property. Ferro stated he would make a follow-up call to Dick Cooper.

**MARKETING/PROMOTION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Ferro reported that a Land Conservancy of West Michigan newsletter article about the recent donation of a conservation easement by Gene and Tubie Gilmore on their property on Grand River Dr. and nearby open space properties preserved by Ada Township will be reprinted in the Township's next newsletter.

**MEMBER AND STAFF COMMENTS/REPORTS**

Donated Consulting Services from Viridis Design Group for Preserve Master Plans, Carl Creek Wetland Preserve and Carl Creek Crossing Preserve

Fitzpatrick reported on an offer from Viridis Design Group to provide donated services to the Township. In discussions with Trevor Bosworth from Viridis, we have selected both the Carl Creek Crossing and Carl Creek Wetland Preserve properties as the focus for their donated design services, in preparing master plans for public access improvements to these properties. The subcommittee consisting of Crosby, Roe and Steketee will work with the consultant on this effort.

Vanderboon Property at 1780 Grand River Dr.

Ferro reported he was contacted recently by Ron Vanderboon re-initiating discussion regarding possible Township acquisition of the riverfront portion of his property adjacent to Roselle Park. Ferro stated Vanderboon suggested a purchase price based on the same per acre rate that was paid by the Township for the adjacent 17.5 acres from the Ada Hospital for Animals in 2006.

The consensus of the Advisory Board was to that a preliminary evaluation of the property should be carried out using our adopted land evaluation criteria, and that input on valuation of the property should be sought from the Township Assessor. Ferro will contact the property owner requesting permission to walk the property. Haga will request the Assessor to conduct an informal appraisal.

Stewardship Activities:

Fitzpatrick reported on the stewardship activities that have been carried out within the last few weeks, including number of volunteers involved and work accomplished.

Crosby commented on the work completed this day on garlic mustard and other invasives removal at the Carl Creek Crossing property.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Crosby mentioned that the next meeting is scheduled for June 14. Roe stated she will not be able to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Susan Burton  
Township Clerk  
RS: jf