

**ADA TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF THE MAY 13, 2010 MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Chairperson Betty Jo Crosby.

PRESENT: Betty Jo Crosby, George Haga, Jamie Ladd, Elise Roe, Mischelle Sytsma, Jeff VandenBerge, Randy VanDragt

ABSENT: Randy Damstra, Rick Steketee

STAFF PRESENT: Jim Ferro, Planning Director

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved by consent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE APRIL 8, 2010 MEETING

It was moved by Ladd, seconded by VanDragt, to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2010 meeting.

Motion approved unanimously.

STATUS OF PROJECTS

1. 383 Pettis Ave. Property Acquisition

Ferro reported that the contract has been awarded for demolition of the home. He added he has not yet identified any native shrubs for use on the site. VanDragt offered to provide some suggestions for use on the site.

VanDragt also noted that he will be unable to attend the June and July meetings of the Advisory Board.

2. Raymond Property on Pettis Ave.

Ferro reported on the meeting of the Subcommittee consisting of Ladd, Sytsma and VanDragt that met recently to discuss the Raymond property. It was noted that a neighbor may be interested in acquiring the property, and that the potential still exists for a conservation easement to be placed on the property prior to its sale.

- d. Gilmore Property on Thornapple River
- e. Botruff Property on Winding Brook

3. Racine Property at 4950 Knapp St. NE

Ferro reported there has been no further activity on this property.

4. Gilmore Property on Thornapple River

Ferro reported that the owner is waiting for a new loan officer to be assigned to his loan before obtaining the needed mortgage release.

5. Botruff Property on Winding Brook

Ferro reported that one group of three members – Ladd, Sytsma and Crosby, has visited the Botruff property. He hopes to get another small group of members to visit the site soon.

MEMBER AND STAFF COMMENTS/REPORTS

1. Carl Creek Wetland Preserve – Completion of Property/Conservation Easement Boundary Markers;
Follow-Up Mailing

Crosby reported on the completion of property boundary marker and conservation easement boundary sign installation on the Carl Creek property. She noted that during the work outing some large areas of infestation by invasive Japanese barberry were found. She suggested a possible joint effort with volunteers from the neighborhood to remove this plant.

STATUS OF OPEN SPACE PROPERTY STEWARDSHIP PLANS

Ferro noted that he and Mark Fitzpatrick have work remaining to complete on the stewardship plan for all of the open space properties which the Township either owns or on which the Township holds easements. It was suggested that samples of stewardship plans be obtained from the Land Conservancy of West Michigan.

DISCUSSION OF BROCHURE MAILING AND FOLLOW-UP ACTION STRATEGY

The Board discussed possible education and promotion outreach efforts to follow up the brochure mailing. Possibilities discussed included holding small events in individual sub-areas of the Township, based on neighborhoods or watersheds. Possible timeframes discussed ranged from early summer to Fall, 2010. Crosby stated she would like to see an event in early summer. Haga and VanDragt expressed doubts whether the needed materials could be prepared in this timeframe. It was determined that Ladd and Crosby would meet with staff of the Land Conservancy of West Michigan regarding their process for planning a similar event.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Susan Burton
Ada Township Clerk
rs:jf