

**ADA TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF THE JUNE 19, 2014 SPECIAL MEETING**

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

Members present: Crosby, Haga, Roe, Steketee and VandenBerge

Absent: Bergman, Damstra, Ladd, LeBlanc

Staff present: Planning Director Ferro, Parks Director Fitzpatrick

Public present: Jeremiah Hepner, Parks Department intern

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MAY 8, 2014 MEETING:

It was moved by VandenBerge, seconded by Roe, to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2014 meeting as presented. Motion passed by unanimously.

STATUS OF PROJECTS:

a. Cooper Property Conservation Easement

Ferro reported that the appraisal of the value of a possible conservation easement on a portion of the Cooper property was received this week.

Board members discussed whether the appraisal report should be shared with the property owner. Haga asked Ferro whether he had any information as to the Coopers' intent with regard to a conservation easement, and Ferro stated he knew only that there is some interest on the part of the owner. Haga suggested a subcommittee be assigned to meet with the property owner.

Following discussion, it was moved by Roe, seconded by VandenBerge, to direct that the appraisal be shared with the property owner.

Motion passed unanimously.

FINAL PAYMENT TO PITSCH CO. FOR DEMOLITION/SITE RESTORATION AT 980 BUTTRICK

Ferro reported that the site restoration of the 980 Buttrick property has been completed, as well as removal of discarded junk on the property. Ferro stated 10% of the contract amount, totaling \$965, was held over the winter to guarantee satisfactory site restoration and revegetation. Ferro stated that payment of the \$965 can now be made.

It was moved by Steketee, seconded by VandenBerge, to recommend payment of the retainage amount of \$965 to Pitsch Co.

Motion passed unanimously.

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING CONSULTANT SELECTION FOR DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION DRAWINGS FOR CARL CREEK CROSSING PUBLIC ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS.

Ferro summarized the process used for review of the proposals received for the Carl Creek Crossing project, including the interviews held by the Subcommittee consisting of Crosby, Roe and Steketee, and the subcommittee's unanimous recommendation to select VIRIDIS Design Group for the project. Haga expressed concern with not selecting the lowest-cost proposal, and stated he thought

the Township Board would have an issue with this, especially concerning the \$6,000 gap between the lowest quote and the VIRIDIS quote. Roe commented that if the selection is to be based on cost alone, there would be no reason to have a subcommittee spend time on interviewing candidates. Ferro pointed out that cost was one of several selection criteria listed in the RFP. Steketee stated that the subcommittee's recommendation was based on the judgment that VIRIDIS has the best understanding of the property and the Township's goals for the site, and is the best candidate.

Following discussion, it was moved by Steketee, seconded by VandenBerge, to recommend the selection of VIRIDIS Design Group for the design and construction administration of the Carl Creek Crossing public access improvements project.

Motion passed by 4-1 vote, with Haga voting no.

CONSIDER POTENTIAL ACQUISITION OF TAX-FORECLOSED PROPERTY AT 2231 SHADY DR. NE

Ferro stated that the Kent County Treasurer has offered the Township the opportunity to acquire a tax-foreclosed property on Shady Dr., adjacent to the Michigan DNR boat launch site. Ferro stated the purchase price would be \$1,058, and the Township would incur additional costs of about \$1,000 for title insurance and Summer 2014 taxes. Ferro stated the property is small, at only 6,490 feet, and is vacant, wooded land on the Grand River. Ferro noted that Grand River frontage property is the highest priority for preservation in our open space preservation goals. Ferro also noted that the property is valued at \$6,000 in the Township assessment records.

Following discussion, it was moved by Haga, seconded by VandenBerge, to recommend acquisition of the 2231 Shady Drive property, with funding from the Open Space Preservation fund.

Motion passed unanimously.

DISCUSSION OF ALLOCATION OF PARKS AND LAND PRESERVATION MILLAGE FUNDS

Advisory Committee members reviewed information provided by Ferro regarding the current Open Space Preservation fund balance, and the ballot language from the 2002 election that authorized the Parks and Land Preservation millage.

VandenBerge commented that the ballot language does not restrict use of the funds to open space preservation purposes only. Steketee stated that in his view, the average citizen does not distinguish between expenditures for park land versus open space land. Ferro noted the high degree of overlap between the two purposes, and that they are not mutually-exclusive functions. Haga suggested the possibility of creating a combined Parks and Open Space Commission, instead of having separate Parks and Open Space advisory boards.

Following discussion, it was moved by Haga, seconded by Roe, to postpone action to the July 10 meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Burton Township Clerk
RS: jf