

**ADA TOWNSHIP  
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES OF THE JULY 8, 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

**ABSENT:** Randy Damstra, Rick Steketee, Randy VanDragt

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

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** None

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved by consent.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JUNE 10, 2010 MEETING**

It was moved by Roe, seconded by Ladd, to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2010 meeting.

Motion approved unanimously.

**STATUS OF PROJECTS**

**1. 383 Pettis Ave. Property Acquisition**

Ferro reported that demolition of the home and restoration of the site are nearly completed. He stated the site has been revegetated, and the establishment of grasses on the riverbank slope is going well. Payment has been made to the contractor, with \$900 of the contract amount retained until revegetation is well-established.

**2. Bijkerk-Pippen Property at Knapp/Grand River Dr.**

Ferro and Crosby reported on their site visit to this property. It was noted that the property is typical wooded floodplain, which is largely undevelopable, and that the property owner was not interested in donating a conservation easement on the property, and would be looking for compensation.

Discussion ensued on the merits of paying a property owner for a conservation easement restriction on land that is already highly-restricted due to its floodplain and wetland characteristics.

It was also pointed out that the property is not large enough to be divided to create another buildable lot on the property. Comment was also made that acquiring a conservation easement on this property would only be worthwhile if it were part of a broader effort on multiple properties along Grand River Dr.

Sytsma suggested that the riparian protection regulations be strengthened so that they would apply to this type of property.

Ladd suggested that correspondence be sent from the Advisory Board to the Planning Commission, encouraging the Commission to consider revisions to the riparian protection rules as soon as possible.

There was consensus that such a letter should be sent to the Planning Commission from the Advisory Board chair.

Ferro stated he had no new information regarding any of the other projects listed on the agenda.

Ferro was requested to contact the Gary family about their interest in a conservation easement on the Raymond property.

## **MARKETING/PROMOTION – BROCHURE MAILING FOLLOWUP**

Crosby reported she will be organizing a meeting of the Marketing Committee to discuss a mailing and draft a letter to all property owners along the Grand River Dr. corridor, both north and south of Knapp St., regarding open space protection options.

## **MEMBER AND STAFF COMMENTS/REPORTS**

### **1. Stewardship Plans for Open Space Properties**

Mark Fitzpatrick reported that plans for fall stewardship projects will be prepared soon, and that these projects will probably involve lots of attention to Asian Bittersweet eradication.

Mark also brought up the update of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan, and that we will need to devote some time to that this fall. Ferro was requested to e-mail the current Plan to members of the Advisory Board.

Crosby asked Haga and VandenBerge whether there has been any further discussion with Michigan DOT regarding inclusion of Township trail work as part of the M-21 bridge replacement project.

Haga reported he has brought this topic up with Art Green of MDOT, after he received an inquiry from Jeff VandenBerge, and that Green stated any compensation to the Township for the value of the easement by having trail work done would have to go through the real estate acquisition process, with an appraisal done.

Crosby asked Haga and VandenBerge to stay involved in this process with MDOT.

Fitzpatrick also reported on the upcoming Grand River Expedition, and that the expedition will have an overnight camp at Chief Hazy Cloud Park on Thursday night, July 22. Mark noted that we can set up a display from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Park.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Susan Burton  
Ada Township Clerk  
rs:jf