

**ADA TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 8, 2013 MEETING**

Meeting called to order at 4:10 p.m. when a quorum was present. In attendance were: Bergman, Crosby, Haga, Ladd and LeBlanc.

Absent: Damstra, Roe, Steketee and VandenBerge

Staff present: Fitzpatrick

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JULY 11, 2013 MEETING:

Minutes of the July 11, 2013 meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Ladd, supported by Bergman.

STATUS OF PROJECTS:

A written status report from Ferro on the status of ongoing projects was reviewed and discussed.

The Board discussed the terms of a potential option agreement for acquisition of property at 980 Buttrick Ave SE. Haga reported that the Seller has proposed terms that would require the Township to pay all closing costs, with the exception of property taxes, which would be prorated based on the calendar year. In discussion, the consensus of the Advisory Board was that the Township should not pay any more than a 3% Commission. Haga will follow up in negotiations with the Seller.

With regard to the Carl Creek Crossing Preserve, Haga noted there is no new information on the potential abandonment of the irrigation pump system. A proposal from Consumers Energy to relocate the overhead electrical service to the irrigation pump house was also discussed. Consumers Energy is proposing to relocate the line to the property located adjacent to the west boundary of the Preserve, which would have little impact on the Preserve property, and allow abandonment of the existing overhead line on the property. The land owner to the west has yet to accept this proposal as the new line would be located on their property.

Fitzpatrick reported on the spring flooding damage to the driveway culvert on the Carl Creek Crossing Preserve. He reported he is meeting with FEMA representatives on August 10, to determine whether repair of the culvert is eligible for disaster recovery funding from the Federal government. Fitzpatrick also noted that a DEQ permit will be required for authorization of repair/replacement of the culvert.

Progress by the Kent County Road Commission on the intersection re-construction project at the corner of Knapp St. and Grand River Dr. was discussed. It was noted we will need to review the Road Commission's restoration of the open space property at the corner.

MEMBER AND STAFF COMMENTS/REPORTS

It was noted that a member of the student team that worked on the Calvin College video project had taken additional footage of summer vegetation conditions at several different locations for integration into the promotion video, but that no new video had yet been seen.

Crosby reported that she had visited the Carl Creek Wetland Preserve to inspect the trespass sites. The primary site was cleaned well but a smaller site to the east still had a few pieces of junk and the site along the railroad tracks still had plastic water bottles and beverage cans as noted on the stewardship walk in April. A work day will be established to remove these items. We also need to place Conservation Easement and No Hunting signs on the southern edge of the Preserve property. It was suggested to get this accomplished before the deer/bow season opens on October 1.

Fitzpatrick reported on the work taking place at Roselle Park. Besides establishing a new playground

area, two miles of unpaved paths at the rear of the park have been graded to provide a more level walking surface for hikers. He also noted that October 15 is planned as a work day at the Carl Creek Crossing Preserve. Also noted was the fact that the pine trees planted with our permission by Gwen Beversluis at the edge of this property have died and that they should be removed. It was agreed that no new trees may be planted there by her.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Burton Township Clerk
RS: bjc