

**ADA TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 13, 2015 SPECIAL MEETING**

The special meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Chairperson Crosby.

Members present: Crosby, Damstra, Haga, Ladd, LeBlanc, Roe, Steketee, VandenBerge

Members absent: LeBlanc

Staff present: Parks Director Fitzpatrick, Planning Director Ferro

Public present: Peter Albertini

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved by consent, with Public Comment moved to the front of the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Albertini, real estate agent representing Edith Pettis, stated he was also the developer of the Skyevale residential community in Ada. Albertini stated that Ms. Pettis is interested in having her property located along the Grand River frontage on Pettis Ave. publicly-acquired for park use, and asked the Advisory Board if there would be interest in pursuing this.

In Board discussion, the consensus was that the Advisory Board would consider a financial partnership with Kent County Parks in seeking State grant funding for County acquisition of the property, similar to the Township's role in committing open space funding as local match for a Kent County grant application for funds to acquire the riverfront portion of the Rieth-Riley property, which is adjacent to the Pettis property.

STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

The Advisory Board held a discussion regarding the strategic direction of the open space preservation program, and development of a list of priority actions that should be carried out in the future.

Ferro provided background information regarding the mission statement, adopted goals and open space protection priorities contained in the Township's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan, as well as a list of the open space preservation program's accomplishments since its inception.

In discussion, the consensus of the Advisory Board was that near-term priorities should include making landscape improvements to the property acquired at the Knapp St./Grand River Dr. intersection, and pursue with the Country Home of Ada condominium association the potential for modifications to the irrigation system water withdrawal system in their easement on the Carl Creek Crossing property.

In addition, the upcoming expiration of both the Parks millage and the Parks and Land Preservation millages at the end of 2016 was discussed. The Advisory Board discussed the possibility of combining the two millages into a single millage proposal, along with combining the Open Space Advisory Board and the Parks Committee into a single Parks and Open Space Board. The consensus of the Advisory Board was that a combined millage should be pursued, and that Parks Committee input should also be sought.

ADJOURNMENT

Crosby noted that the next meeting of the Advisory Board would be Thursday, September 10, at 4:00 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Smith, Township Clerk