

**ADA TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 13, 2009 MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Vice-Chair Elise Roe.

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

ABSENT: Jeff Vandenberg, Randy VanDragt

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

PUBLIC PRESENT: Karen Jason Gill, Corky Paul

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE JULY 9, 2009 MEETING

Damstra asked how much new property tax revenue was generated per year for the Open Space Preservation Fund. Haga responded it was about \$200,000 per year.

It was moved by Sytsma, seconded by Steketee, to approve the minutes of the July 9 meeting.

Motion approved unanimously.

STATUS OF PROJECTS

1.. 383 Pettis Ave. Property Acquisition

Ferro reported the Township has made a new offer for the property, and is waiting for a response from the owner.

Karen Jason Gill, who presented the offer on behalf of the Township, stated that the owner was not inclined to immediately accept the offer.

Damstra asked whether the offer we had made previously was significantly higher than the current offer. Ferro stated it was. Damstra stated in that case, we might be better off purchasing the property without the grant funds.

2. Gilmore/MDOT Property on former Thornapple River – Status of Title

Ferro stated we have not yet received the needed mortgage release, but it has been verbally promised.

3. Raymond Property Appraisal – Status of Appraisal

Ferro distributed a letter from Yankee & Associates stating that they are behind in completing the appraisal, due to the limited availability of sales data.

STATUS OF POTENTIAL PROJECTS

1. Vanderwarf Family Trust Conservation Easement

Ferro reported no change in status of this project. The VanderWarf family has not made any counteroffer to the one we made earlier. He also reported he has contacted several neighbors about the possibility of donating funds to the Township to help complete a transaction with the VanderWarfs, but without having a target amount in mind, it is difficult to secure donation commitments.

Karen Jason Gill, the real estate agent representing the VanderWarfs, explained the various ways that the property is listed.

Ladd encouraged Gill to point out the possibility of a conservation easement transaction to potential buyers.

2. Roberts Property at 2455 Pettis Ave. – Status of Site Visit

No site visit has been arranged at this time.

DRAFT OPEN SPACE BROCHURE

The latest draft of the open space brochure was discussed. There was discussion of the intended audience and purpose for the brochure. The Marketing Committee will meet again to refine the text of the document. Ladd distributed copies of a map of high priority open space in Leelanau County that was published in a newspaper, and suggested that this may be a way to generate open space candidate sites.

MEMBER AND STAFF COMMENTS

a. Jakeway Property – Two Mile Rd.

Ferro reported that he had heard from Kendra Wills that the Jakeway family may have renewed interest in accomplishing preservation of their property on Two Mile Rd., and asked the Advisory Board whether they would have an interest in possibly acquiring an easement on this property. Members indicated they would be interested in pursuing this. Ferro will contact the Jakeway family.

PUBLIC COMMENT.

Lloyd Paul, resident at 1268 Pettis Ave. NE, and realtor, presented information to the Advisory Board on the property he has listed at 409 Pettis Ave. SE, on the Grand River. He encouraged the Advisory Board to consider this property for possible acquisition as an open space site. He noted that the property has over 300 feet of frontage on the Grand River, and would make a great site for a kayak/canoe access site. He also noted that the building on the property could be used in a variety of ways by the Township.

Members expressed an interest in making site visits to the property, which Ferro stated he would arrange in small groups.

Ladd suggested the possibility of dividing the property, with the building site separated from the riverfront portion of the property.

ADJOURNMENT

Crosby noted that the next meeting is scheduled for September 10.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Susan Burton
Ada Township Clerk
rs:jf