

**ADA TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 10, 2015 MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 pm by Chairperson Crosby

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

Staff present: Parks Director Fitzpatrick

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved by consent with the addition of reports regarding the Roselle Park Festival and the Roselle Park Resource Building construction.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 9 AND AUGUST 13 SPECIAL MEETING

It was moved by Roe, seconded by VandenBerge, to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2015 meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

It was moved by Steketee, seconded by VandenBerge, to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2015 special meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

STATUS OF CARL CREEK CROSSING PUBLIC ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

It was noted that the bridge replacement at the entrance to the walking paths is almost completed. Planking is in and needs to be anchored plus installing the fencing on the sides of the bridge.

STATUS OF IRRIGATION SYSTEM FENCING PROPOSAL FROM COUNTRY HOMES OF ADA CONDO ASSOCIATION

Discussion followed based on the report that the subcommittee of Haga, Ferro, Crosby and Roe made following their previous meeting with two representatives from the Condo Association. The discussion was broader based than simply being a matter of fencing around the pump house and the exterior piping. Haga reported that he had taken a look inside of the existing pump house when it was having some repair work done. He saw ruptured tanks and thought it all looked dark and dismal. Township Engineer Groenenboom has met with Randy TerHorst from Terhorst & Rinzema Construction to get an idea of cost of removing the present building and rebuilding a smaller replacement building on the east side of the stream. Groenenboom is waiting for follow-up information on cost from TerHorst.

Damstra took the position that at this point the Condo Association should be willing to “do the right thing” and change the means by which they take the waters from the Carl Creek for irrigation purposes, essentially free water, but an eye-sore for walkers in the preserve. References were made to many issues that might be involved. It was concluded that before there is further discussion it is important to have a meeting with the DEQ so we are fully aware of any requirements about changing the present system of water withdrawal. (The condo residents may be future stewards.)

It was noted that Ferro and Haga have met with township engineers and King and McGregor,

wetland specialists.

LANDSCAPING OF 4950 KNAPP ST. (NE CORNER AT GRAND RIVER DR.)

Brief discussion of ideas so far: willow tree removal, grading, sign placement, maintaining clear sight distances, and possible addition of top soil for a meadow planting of native wildflowers for pollinators.

ROSELLE RIVER FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 26, 2015

Fitzpatrick noted volunteers are needed for the event.

UPDATE ON RESOURCE BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AT ROSELLE PARK

Fitzpatrick gave a report on the progress of funding, marketing, timing of construction, etc. He referred to the top soil that has been excavated from the site and replaced with sand. It was suggested that perhaps any extra top soil could be hauled to the Knapp/Grand River corner and deposited there for later use.. Fitzpatrick also commented on the number of requests that have already come in from persons wanting to know about building rental and fees. While it was considered premature to discuss rentals, it is worth noting the interest being generated in the new building.

The board was reminded that Roger Sabine, Kent County Parks Director, has applied for federal funding for the “home river project” to purchase and protect lands on both sides of the Grand River between Knapp and Fulton Streets. Envision Ada has applied for \$1,000,000 for Thornapple River corridor open space improvements in the village.

Crosby noted that the next regularly scheduled meeting would be November 12, 2015 at 4:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 5:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jackie Smith, Township Clerk