

**ADA TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2007 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, Matt Nygren, Bette Roberts, Elise Roe, Mischelle Sytsma.

ABSENT: Greg Forbes, ~~Elise Roe~~, Randy VanDragt

STAFF PRESENT: Planning Director Jim Ferro

PUBLIC PRESENT: Gary Rolls, Kent County Agriculture Preservation Board
Marsha Wilcox and Kendra Wills, United Growth for Kent County

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 9, 2007 MEETING MINUTES

Moved by Roberts, seconded by Sytsma, to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2007 meeting.

Motion approved unanimously.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Postponed for discussion later in the meeting.

**DISCUSSION WITH UNITED GROWTH FOR KENT COUNTY'S LAND
PRESERVATION COMMITTEE REGARDING LAND PRESERVATION EDUCATION
PROJECT – MARSHA WILCOX AND KENDRA WILLS**

Marsha Wilcox and Kendra Wills presented information regarding United Growth's Land Preservation Education Project. They indicated that they would like to initiate activities under this project in Ada Township, including personal contact with owners of agricultural land, to provide them with information regarding all of the various methods and programs available to them to maintain land in agricultural use.

They expressed the desire to coordinate this effort with Ada Township, including possible cost-sharing on an informational brochure for land owners.

A question was raised whether the "parks and land preservation" can lawfully be used for up-front expenses to promote land preservation programs, such as the Kent County PDR program.

Kendra noted that their timeframe for property owner outreach efforts is in December, 2007.

The consensus of the Advisory Board was that a cooperative effort on the project would be very worthwhile. Names of potential property owners to meet with were discussed, and a tentative list was provided to Marcia and Kendra.

STATUS OF PROPERTIES OF INTEREST

Ferro reported on the status of the 383 Pettis land acquisition, MDOT property on the Thornapple River and Forest Glen, Inc. properties.

MARKETING AND PROMOTION

Crosby reported on the upcoming East Kent Townships Open Space Council photography contest and exhibit, the champion tree competition with Vergennes Township and the NWF Community Habitat Certification program.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ADJOURNMENT: It was noted that the next meeting is on Thursday, October 11.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Deborah Ensing Millhuff, CMC
Ada Township Clerk

rs:jf