

**ADA TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 8, 2009 MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 4:08 p.m. by Chairperson Betty Jo Crosby.

PRESENT: Betty Jo Crosby, George Haga, Elise Roe, Mischelle Sytsma, Jeff VandenBerge, Randy VanDragt

ABSENT: Randy Damstra, Jamie Ladd, Rick Steketee

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

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 10, 2009 MEETING

It was moved by VanDragt, seconded by Roe, to approve the minutes of the September 10 meeting, subject to correction to reflect that the meeting was called to order by Elise Roe.

Motion approved.

STATUS OF PROJECTS

1. 383 Pettis Ave. Property Acquisition

Ferro reported that an appraisal has been ordered, and should be completed within the next week or two. He also reported that the State has expressed willingness to consider the results of a new appraisal.

2. Raymond Property Appraisal

The Board reviewed the completed appraisal report on the value of the development rights on the Raymond property on Pettis Ave. The consensus of the Board was to not make the appraisal report available to the property owner at this time. A Committee comprised of Damstra, Ladd and Vandenberg was appointed to review the appraisal and made a recommendation to the Advisory Board regarding an offer.

3. Roberts Property at 2455 Pettis Ave. – Preliminary Evaluation Results

Crosby, Roe, Sytsma and Ferro reported on their site visit to the Roberts property on October 5. It was noted that the property includes both an upland meadow, part of which is outside the regulated floodplain, and a lowland wooded area, that is all located in the floodplain. It was noted that the property does not have a lot of development potential, due to the floodplain constraints. The possibility of obtaining a conservation easement on property adjoining the Roberts property to the south was discussed.

It was also noted that there are legal encumbrances on the Roberts property at the present time which are a deterrent to potential easement acquisition by the Township. The consensus of the Board was to not pursue the project further at this time.

MARKETING/PROMOTION

The possible engagement of a staff member from the Land Conservancy of West Michigan to provide services on the brochure design was discussed. Crosby reported on communication received from the Land Conservancy that they would charge an hourly rate of \$25.00 for services from Danielle Fogel, who works on publication design and content for the Land Conservancy.

It was moved by Haga, seconded by VanDragt, to authorize expenditure of up to \$200 for brochure design services from the Land Conservancy.

Motion passed unanimously.

MEMBER AND STAFF COMMENTS

Mark Fitzpatrick reported briefly on the Roselle Park River Festival and the River Clean-Up Day.

NEXT MEETING DATE

It was noted that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 12, 2009, at 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Susan Burton
Ada Township Clerk
rs:jf