

**ADA TOWNSHIP  
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 13, 2011 MEETING**

A regular meeting of the Open Space Preservation Advisory Board was held on Thursday, October 13, 2011. The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chairperson Betty Jo Crosby at the Ada Township Offices, 7330 Thornapple River Dr., Ada, MI.

**PRESENT:** Betty Jo Crosby, George Haga, Elise Roe, Rick Steketee, Jeff VandenBerge

**ABSENT:** Randy Damstra, Dan Bergman, Jamie Ladd, Paul Leblanc

**STAFF PRESENT:** Jim Ferro, Planning Director

**PUBLIC PRESENT:** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 11 AND SEPTEMBER 12 MEETINGS**

It was moved by Steketee, seconded by Roe, to approve the minutes of the August 11, 2011 meeting as presented. Motion passed by 5-0 vote.

It was moved by Roe, seconded by VandenBerge, to approve the minutes of the September 12 special meeting. Motion passed by 5-0 vote.

**PROPERTY ACQUISITION AT 6195 EAST FULTON**

Ferro reported on the results of discussions with the Country Homes of Ada Condominium Association. He stated that after discussion with the Association membership at the annual meeting of members, the Association Board determined that they do not wish to convert the irrigation system to public water.

Following discussion, it was moved by VandenBerge, seconded by Steketee, to recommend that the Township not exercise the option to purchase the property at 6195 East Fulton St. at this time.

Motion passed by 5-0 vote.

After discussion, the Advisory Board directed Ferro and Haga to discuss with the property owner the possibility of selling the northern portion of the property to the Township, and the southern portion of the property, containing the irrigation water withdrawal equipment, to the adjacent property owner to the west.

**STATUS OF PROJECTS**

Cooper Property on Bailey Dr.

Ferro reported he has not had any communication with the Coopers regarding a possible site visit to the property this fall.

Gilmore Property Mortgage Release, Letter to Property Owner

Crosby reported that it has been more than 60 days since John Gilmore indicated he would have the mortgage release taken care of within that time frame. She stated she would continue efforts to get the matter resolved.

**STATUS OF CONTRACT SERVICES WITH LAND CONSERVANCY**

Ferro reported he has had no further discussions with Land Conservancy staff regarding a possible contract for services. He stated that with the Land Conservancy engaged in a search for a new Executive Director, and with end-of-year project deadlines looming, it is not something that would be a priority for the Land Conservancy until after the first of the year. The consensus of the Board was to not take up this matter again until Spring, 2012.

## **STATUS OF RIPARIAN PROTECTION REGULATIONS**

Ferro reported that the Planning Commission postponed action on the proposed revisions to the riparian protection standards at its September 15 meeting. Crosby stated she would contact Planning Commission Chairperson Korth to discuss the status.

## **MEMORIAL FOR BETTE ROBERTS**

Fitzpatrick reported that the Parks Department policy regarding memorial tree planting or other memorials on park property is for them to be funded by donors. No action was taken on this matter.

### **8. Member and Staff Comments/Reports**

#### Yard Waste Disposal Encroachments by Neighbors at Carl Creek Wetland Preserve

Ferro was directed to send a letter to the owners of property where encroachment is occurring, signed by both the Township and the Land Conservancy, along with photos of the encroachment. It was suggested that follow-up calls to the property owners also be made, and that the letter mention the yard waste pickup service that the Township provides.

#### Racine Property at Knapp and Grand River Dr.

Ferro reported he had received a non-binding proposal from a real estate agent on behalf of Susan Racine, for Township acquisition of the Racine property. He stated that the proposal required the Township to assume all environmental response costs, and to indemnify the property owner against any future environmental liability.

Ferro was requested to obtain input from the Township's environmental consultant as to whether the Township's potential costs for environmental response can be ascertained with more certainty, and to obtain an estimate of the cost of determining the location and number of any underground tanks on the property.

Ferro also reported he had sent a letter to the new owner of the Vanderwarf property, introducing the Township's open space preservation program and the use of conservation easements to preserve open space.

The Board discussed Randy VanDragt's departure from the Advisory Board, and requested Haga to send a letter to VanDragt on behalf of the Advisory Board, thanking him for his service and expressing our desire to draw upon his expertise in future site evaluations.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Susan Burton  
Township Clerk  
RS: jf