

**ADA TOWNSHIP
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 14, 2010 MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 4:07 p.m. by Chairperson Betty Jo Crosby.

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

ABSENT: Randy Damstra

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

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved by consent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2010 MEETING

It was moved by VanDragt, seconded by VandenBerge, to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2010 meeting.

Motion approved unanimously.

APPRAISAL OF CONSERVATION EASEMENT ON 2025 HONEY CREEK AVE. PROPERTY

Ferro reported that the Andrews family was not prepared to commit to cost-sharing of an appraisal on the VanderWarf property at 2025 Honey Creek Ave., and that they would probably not want to do so until their current residence is sold.

Board members discussed whether to proceed with an appraisal at this time. Following discussion, it was moved by Haga, seconded by VanDragt, to postpone action on ordering an appraisal for the property.

Motion passed unanimously.

STATUS OF PROJECTS

Raymond Property – 180 Pettis Ave. NE- Status and Alternatives

Ferro reported that there has been no change in the status of this property. The neighboring property owners who are considering purchase of the property have not yet entered into a purchase agreement to acquire the property.

Ladd posed the question whether the Township should reconsider acquiring the property as a possible nature preserve park. In discussion, VanDragt questioned whether the Township is in a position to commit to the needed stewardship on the property, given the extent of invasive species establishment on the property. Ferro pointed out that in past discussions, it was concluded that to use the Raymond property for public access, additional adjacent land would need to be acquired in order to have land suitable for needed parking. The comment was also made that it would become a problem for the Open Space Preservation program if the property was acquired by the Township, and we had difficulty with proper upkeep of the property.

The consensus of the Board was to take no action at this time.

Gilmore Property on Thornapple River

Ferro reported there has been no activity on obtaining clear title to the property donated to the Township by John Gilmore.

Botruff Property on Winding Brook

Ferro commented that only 3 members of the Advisory Board have visited this property.

Crosby stated that as a courtesy to Mr. Botruff, additional members should visit the property so that we can respond as to our interest in the property.

Ferro stated he would coordinate additional site visits.

Cooper Property on Bailey Dr.

Ladd and Ferro reported on discussions with Dick Cooper regarding a possible conservation easement transaction on his property. It was noted that the Township Board had approved proceeding with an appraisal on the property, with the cost shared on a 2/3-Township, 1/3-property owner basis. A meeting is being arranged with the property owner and the appraiser, to confirm the scope of the appraisal before proceeding.

383 Pettis Ave. Site Restoration – Planting Plan and Volunteer Planting Day

Saturday, October 30 was set as the date for the volunteer effort to install plant materials at the 383 Pettis Ave. site, with the following Saturday, November 6, set as a backup date.

MARKETING/PROMOTION

October 19 Educational Event

Crosby reported she is making calls to property owners who have been mailed invitations to this event.

Member and Staff Comments/Reports

Robin Bottrall Property at 6230 Grand River Dr. NE

Ferro stated he would coordinate site visits to this property.

MDOT Tree Inventory and Restoration Plans for M-21 Bridge Project

Ferro was asked to obtain the planting plan that is referenced in the MDOT wetland restoration specifications.

Potential Partnership with Forest Hills Public Schools for Invasive Species Control on School Properties.

Crosby reported that Dan Behm has not responded to her follow up effort since her initial conversation with him, at which time she left a letter of explanation about invasive species on school properties.

Status of Stewardship Plans for Open Space Properties

The Board discussed the logistics of getting a volunteer barberry removal effort underway at the Carl

Creek Wetland Preserve It was agreed that Rick Steketee would get in touch with the Malvitz family, who live closest to the large barberry infestation, to see if we can access the infested area through their property, and create interest among neighbors to assist in the effort.

PUBLIC COMMENT. None.

It was noted that the next meeting is scheduled for November 4.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Susan Burton
Ada Township Clerk
rs:jf