

**ADA TOWNSHIP  
OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD  
MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 4, 2010 MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Chairperson Betty Jo Crosby.

**PRESENT:** Betty Jo Crosby, George Haga, Jamie Ladd, Elise Roe, Rick Steketee,

**ABSENT:** Randy Damstra, Mischelle Sytsma, Jeff VandenBerge, Randy VanDragt

**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 OCTOBER 14, 2010 MEETING**

It was moved by Steketee, seconded by Roe, to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2010 meeting.

Motion approved unanimously.

**STATUS OF PROJECTS**

a. Raymond Property – 180 Pettis Ave. NE

Ferro reported he has no new information regarding this property.

b. Gilmore Property on Thornapple River

Ferro reported no new information has been obtained.

c. Botruff Property on Winding Brook

Ferro stated he believes that the Botruff's are in the process of selling a portion of their property to a neighboring property owner.

d. Cooper Property on Bailey Dr.

Ferro reported that he was not able to speak with Dick Cooper before the Coopers departed for Arizona for the winter. He stated that he has contact information for the Coopers, and will get in touch with them.

e. Bottrall Property at 6230 Grand River Dr. NE

Ladd asked that site visits be scheduled to this property.

**4. Marketing/Promotion**

a. October 19 Educational Event

Crosby reported on the results of the October 19 educational presentation by Nate Haan from Calvin College.

b. Article for December Adaview Newsletter

Copies of the newsletter article regarding invasive species were distributed for members' information.

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

- a. Proposal from Land Conservancy of West Michigan for Contract Services on Conservation Easement Drafting

Ferro stated that in a recent discussion he and Ladd had with April Scholtz at the Land Conservancy, the potential for the conservancy to provide contract services to the Township in negotiating and drafting conservation easements was discussed. Ferro stated that in conversations with Scholtz, he became aware that we have been using outdated easement language in the draft easements we have prepared, and that this results from the Township not having up-to-date knowledge and expertise in this subject. Ferro stated that as a result of this conversation, he concluded that the Township either needs to develop better in-house expertise, or contract with an outside source for this expertise. Since there are budget implications in deciding how to proceed on this, he believes it is important to address this soon, prior to budgets being prepared for the next fiscal year.

Ferro stated he was expecting a proposal from April Scholtz providing details regarding the cost of contracting with them for services, but April was not able to complete the proposal prior to this meeting. Information will be provided for the December meeting.

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

Ferro reported the only information he was able to obtain from Art Green at MDOT was a plan showing the tree clearing limits for the bridge project. He will try to obtain additional information.

Ladd brought up VanDragt's suggestion at a prior meeting that we request MDOT use local genetic stock in tree replacement, and that the Township consider paying any incremental costs for doing so.

Ferro and Haga will follow up with Art Green at MDOT regarding this.

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

Crosby reported she has not heard back from Dan Behm after her earlier conversation.

Mark Fitzpatrick reported on the "Groundswell" project being implemented in 10 different schools in Kent County, which is an educational partnership with schools that carries out environmental education projects involving invasive species removal and native vegetation restoration projects on school property. Mark reported on his involvement in this project at Eastern Middle and High School.

- d. 383 Pettis Ave. Site Restoration

Crosby reported on the volunteer planting effort that was completed at the 383 Pettis Ave. site on October 30.

Ladd suggested getting a sign placed on the property.

Mark Fitzpatrick distributed copies of a brochure on invasive species prepared by the West Michigan cluster of the Stewardship Network.

## **PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE**

December 9 at 4:00 p.m. was set for a joint work session between the Open Space Advisory Board and the Parks Committee, to discuss the update of the 5-Year Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. Mark Fitzpatrick distributed the draft public survey regarding the plan that is being inserted in December property tax bills, and solicited input from Advisory Board members.

**PUBLIC COMMENT.**           None.

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

Respectfully submitted:

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Susan Burton  
Ada Township Clerk  
rs:jf