

**ADA TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 12, 2015 MEETING**

A regular meeting of the Ada Township Open Space Preservation Advisory Board was held on Thursday, November 12, 2015, at Ada Township Hall, 7330 Thornapple River Dr., Ada, MI.

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm by Chairperson Crosby

ROLL CALL

Members present: Bergman, Crosby Damstra, Haga, Roe. Steketee and VandenBerge

Members absent: Ladd and LeBlanc

Staff present: Planning Director Ferro, Parks Director Fitzpatrick

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 10 MEETING

It was moved by Steketee, seconded by Roe, to approve the minutes of the September 10 meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF FENCING PROPOSAL FROM COUNTRY HOMES OF ADA, AND REPORT FROM SUBCOMMITTEE

Crosby summarized the meeting held between herself, Haga and Ferro with representatives of the Country Homes of Ada Condo Association, Gretchen Partridge and Kevin Ecclesine. Crosby stated that the Association is no longer proposing to install fencing around the irrigation system area, but has two signs that they plan to install alerting trail users to not walk off the designated trails and onto the irrigation system area.

(Note: Bergman and Damstra arrived at approximately 4:10 p.m.)

It was noted that the Association has no desire to abandon the water withdrawal system and connect to public water as a water source for their irrigation system.

Crosby stated the Association also stated they want to anchor the aluminum footbridge that is placed across the creek to the ground, to keep it from being washed away by high water flows.

Ferro noted it was also discussed that the Township would install a couple of signs along the trail system in the Preserve, advising people to stay on designated trails.

Crosby noted she wished to discuss with the Michigan DEQ at what point there would be DEQ involvement in any changes to the irrigation system equipment that are made by the Condo Association.

STATUS OF PROJECTS:

Carl Creek Crossing Public Access Improvements:

Fitzpatrick stated the creek bank adjacent to the new bridge over the creek at the Preserve entrance has been matted and seeded, and the interpretive signs have been installed. He noted the punch list items have been completed by the contractor, except for repositioning the access gate located between the parking area and the bridge across the creek.

Roselle Park Resource Building:

Fitzpatrick reported the Resource Building construction is on-schedule. He stated the moving of the totem pole from the Crosby property to the building is scheduled for November 20. He added that an April completion date for the building is targeted.

Fitzpatrick stated donations to the project are being encouraged, with as many donations as possible being sought by the end of November, to include in reporting to the donor who is offering matching funds.

Kent County Parks Grant Application for Rieth Riley Property Acquisition:

Crosby reported she had spoken with Roger Sabine, Kent County Parks Director, about the prospects for the Chief Hazy Cloud property acquisition grant application. She stated Sabine is uncertain what the outcome will be in December.

Tree Removal at 4950 Knapp St. (corner, Knapp St./Grand River Dr. intersection):

Fitzpatrick reported the tree removal from the 4950 Knapp St. property has been completed.

Ferro indicated he will be contacting Viridis Design Group to request a proposal for design services for a community entry sign and associated landscaping at the property.

Merging of Parks Committee and Open Space Preservation Advisory Board:

In discussion, the consensus of the Board was that legal counsel should be requested to prepare a draft ordinance that would combine the Open Space Advisory Board and Parks Committee and the Parks and Open Space Preservation programs.

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan Update; Planning for Millage Renewals:

The consensus of the Board was to schedule a special meeting for Thursday, December 10, to discuss update of the Parks/Rec./Open Space Plan and the upcoming expiration of the Parks millage and the Parks and Land Preservation millage.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacqueline Smith, Township Clerk