

**ADA TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 13, 2014 MEETING**

The meeting was called to order at 4:11pm by Chairperson Crosby.

Members present: Crosby, Damstra, Haga, LeBlanc, Roe (4:18) and VandenBerge.

Members absent: Bergman, Ladd and Stekettee.

Staff present: Parks Director Fitzpatrick

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 11, 2014 MEETING

Moved by LeBlanc, seconded by Haga, to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2014 meeting. Motion passed unanimously

Crosby suggested taking up Item 5, Carl Creek Crossing Preserve Improvements.

CARL CREEK CROSSING PRESERVE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Trevor Bosworth, Viridis Design Group, presented drawings and photos of an alternative bridge construction system that has been used successfully by Kent County Parks, that does not require installing deep structural supports for the bridge. He stated the system uses heavy galvanized metal pans anchored to the ground to support the structural load. He suggested this as an alternative construction method that would be both less costly and less physically disruptive to the site. Bosworth also suggested the possibility of including in the scope of the project the removal of a large stand of invasive autumn olive in the southeast portion of the preserve. In addition, Bosworth stated the area cleared of autumn olive could be used to deposit about 50 cubic yards of excess soil removed to grade the trail base up the slope of the area on which fill was placed years ago by MDOT. It was noted this soil would need to have clean topsoil cover placed over it and re-vegetated, as it would be taken from the fill area that was identified in our environmental due diligence as having slightly elevated levels of heavy metals. Bosworth stated depositing this material on site would be less costly than hauling to a landfill.

In discussion, the consensus of the Board was to use the alternative bridge construction system suggested by Bosworth, include removal of the autumn olive in the scope of the project, and place the excess soil material on the site rather than trucking it off the site. Discussion also included timing of the bidding process following DEQ permit approval. It was noted that Bosworth's cost estimate of \$105,000 would need to be revised upward to \$115,000 to reflect these changes in the scope of the project.

Following discussion, it was moved by Damstra, seconded by LeBlanc, to recommend to the Township Board that the project scope as revised be advertised for bids in January, 2015. Motion passed unanimously.

In further discussion, Bosworth stated that in a meeting on the site, Luis Saldivia from the Michigan DEQ had pointed out there is State grant funding available for stream restoration projects, and that we may want to pursue a grant-funded project. Board members expressed interest in doing so for both the Carl Creek Crossing Preserve and the Carl Creek Wetland Preserve. Damstra suggested hiring a "grant specialist" for this purpose. It was also suggested that Wendy Ogilvie at Grand Valley Metro Council might be of assistance.

CONSIDERATION OF INQUIRY FROM TROY TINGLEY REGARDING PURCHASE OF 2231 SHADY DR. PROPERTY

Tingley was not present. A question was raised as to why this item was on the agenda. It was pointed out that no formal response to the request had been made at the last meeting.

It was then moved by Haga, supported by Roe, that no further consideration be given to the sale of the 2231 Shady Drive property. Motion passed unanimously.

Crosby stated that she visited the Shady Dr. site prior to the meeting, and observed that the only item of

remaining encroachment on the property was the small wooden frame structure near the river bank, shown in the photos taken by Ferro. However, the question of whether the accessory building being built by Tingley conforms with setback requirements was raised. Haga made note of that to follow up.

STATUS OF PROJECTS

Roselle Park Resource Building:

Fitzpatrick gave an update on the status of test well drilling at the site of the planned Resource Building at Roselle Park. He stated Wahlfield Drilling Co. will be drilling the first test well, at the candidate site nearest the proposed building, next week. If the test results from this well are not satisfactory, then one or two other candidate sites, each farther from the building site, can be successively drilled. If one of the candidate test wells is approved as a potable water source by the County Health Department, we will then pursue permitting of a septic system. Fitzpatrick stated the outcome of the test will drilling should be known by Christmas. Fitzpatrick pointed out that there is a possibility that no well site will be approved.

4950 Knapp St. Property Landscaping:

There was brief discussion about installing landscape plantings at the property previously-acquired at the southeast corner of Grand River Dr. and Knapp St. It was agreed that the status of site revegetation from the trail construction project should be assessed in the spring, and that the right-of-way boundary, the "clear vision" easement and road runoff all must be taken into consideration. Haga mentioned that projected costs should go into the next budget as a line item.

Damstra questioned if the Township has the ability to demand removal of the barrels and other trash in the floodplain just south of Knapp St.

Irrigation System on Carl Creek Crossing Preserve:

With regard to the irrigation system at the south end of the Carl Creek Crossing property, it was mentioned we have not heard from Gary Vos as to his interest in assisting us in some way in relocating the irrigation pump house and piping. LeBlanc reminded Board members of Vos's initial interest and his expressed willingness to help when discussing the sale of this property to the Township. A personal visit with Gary was suggested.

STATUS OF PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE PLAN UPDATE PROCESS

Fitzpatrick commented on the responses to the Online Community Input survey and suggested that those who had not yet responded do so. He also encouraged Advisory Board members to attend the Public Input Open House on Wednesday, November 19 between 3 and 5 or 6 and 8 at Ada Township Park.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Burton Township Clerk
RS: bjc