

**ADA TOWNSHIP OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 10, 2015 SPECIAL MEETING**

A special meeting of the Ada Township Open Space Preservation Advisory Board was held on Thursday, December 10, 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: Crosby, Haga, LeBlanc, Roe. Steketee

Members absent: Bergman, Damstra, Ladd and VandenBerge

Staff present: Planning Director Ferro, Parks Director Fitzpatrick

Public present: 1

STATUS OF PROJECTS

Creek Crossing Public Access Improvements

Fitzpatrick reported the Carl Creek Crossing Improvements project is now completed, and the contractor can now submit the final pay application. He noted the access control gate has been re-installed. Fitzpatrick stated the Parks Department would be completing some native wildflower seeding on the property next week. He also noted that people are walking the trails, and some are driving there to visit. He stated the parking lot will be plowed this winter, on a low-priority basis. He stated there is a need to have the County Road Commission clear the roadside culvert under the driveway.

The need for better, more visible signage identifying the preserve from the road was discussed. Haga stated we could include funds in the upcoming budget for new signage.

Ferro mentioned that we had previously indicated to the Country Homes of Ada association that we would also install a couple of signs directing preserve users to stay on designated trails.

Crosby reported that she and Ferro are working on communicating to Luis Saldivia at the Michigan DEQ regarding the irrigation water withdrawal system, and are asking for a site visit with DEQ representative. She stated she is interested in knowing if the water withdrawal is legal.

Roselle Park Resource Building:

Fitzpatrick updated the Board on the status of construction of the Resource Building. Fitzpatrick noted that a status report on donations pledged will be prepared tomorrow.

Haga stated an order for electric service to the building has been placed. He also noted that the package waste treatment system for the building will be connected to the Township's SCADA (supervisory control and data acquisition) system for remote monitoring.

Fitzpatrick noted the project is about \$40,000 under budget. He stated he is also working on draft policies and pricing for use of the building, and is obtaining data on pricing of other facilities in the area.

Kent County Parks Grant Application for Rieth Riley Property Acquisition:

Crosby reported that the Kent County Parks grant application for funding to acquire Rieth Riley riverfront property was not recommended for funding by the DNR, and that Roger Sabine has indicated it should have a good chance of being funded next year.

DISCUSSION OF PARKS AND RECREATION/OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION CONSOLIDATION / MILLAGE EXPIRATIONS AND RENEWALS.

Board members reviewed an initial draft of an ordinance that would consolidate the Open Space Advisory Board and the Parks Committee, and provide for administration of parks and open space funding by a single body.

Ferro noted he has not yet completed a thorough review of the draft, but that his initial impression is that it needs additional work.

No action was taken on the draft ordinance.

In discussion of planning for renewals of expiring parks and parks and land preservation millages, Haga noted that the current millages will not expire until the end of 2016, and that there will be one more collection of revenue from the current millages, in December 2016. He pointed out that this provides us some more time in planning for a future millage renewal proposal.

In Board discussion, LeBlanc noted stated that in planning for millage renewals, we need to have both a track record of past accomplishment and a compelling package of proposed projects for the future to present to voters.

Haga stated that the Capital Improvements Plan process would identify projects for the future.

ENVISION ADA PLAN IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

Ferro presented information regarding the plan alternatives that have been developed for public amenities in the two areas that will become Township property in the future – land along the Thornapple River front, extending north from Thornapple River Dr., and land between the new Headley St. and M-21. Ferro noted an open house event for public review and input is scheduled for December 16.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacqueline Smith, Township Clerk