



Webster Township Farmland & Open Space Preservation Board Regular Meeting March 3, 2008

The Webster Township Farmland & Open Space Preservation Board was called to order at 7:05pm, by Chairman Rob Mitzel on March 3, 2008 at the township hall, 5665 Webster Church Road Dexter, MI 48130.

Members present: Rob Mitzel, Jean Cares, Erica Perry, Tom Bloomer, consultant Barry Lonik and recording secretary Cyndi Zuccaro.

Approve Minutes

Motion Tom second Erica to approve the corrected minutes of the Regular meeting February 4, 2008. All ayes and carried.

Announcements and Public Comment

Erica will not be attending the June and July WFOSPB meetings.

Old Business

Project Status Updates:

I. Gordon Hall

We are awaiting the DAHS Board's response to the letter sent last month.

II. Smyth Property

The phase I environmental assessment is complete.

The survey is not completed yet, but is expected soon.

The easement document is also near completion.

III. Merkel Property

A new appraisal has been commissioned.

IV. State of Michigan Preservation Program

Barry attended the Michigan Agricultural Preservation Board meeting last month. It was clear the board took seriously our boards concerns, addressed in our letter.

Positive changes were made to the program's scoring.

The inter-governmental cooperation part of the program is not complete and was tabled at the meeting.

V. Update on Inter-Township Preservation Cooperation

Rob met last Tuesday with Ray Grew, Bruce Manny, and Jan Bendor. They discussed the State and Federal programs. There was a consensus that a (UCA) Urban Cooperation Agreement was no longer worth pursuing, due to the positive point adjustments made to the state program.

Rob discussed (TDR) Transfer of Development Rights. He learned at the (MAP) Michigan Association of Planning workshop last month that the state's Zoning Enabling Act will allow TDR within the PUD option. Rob will be contacting MAP regarding a specific training workshop for Planning Commissioners in the four townships. (This training would also qualify townships for extra points with the state program.)

Bruce Manny suggested special signage for PDR properties in the four townships, to encourage positive community sentiment. Some examples will be presented at their next meeting.

The group will meet again Tuesday, March 25, 2008.

VI. Introduction of Amendment to By-Laws

Proposed amendments in section 3, 4, and 7b of our By-Laws were presented. Action to vote will be taken at the April meeting. They will then be subject to approval by the BOT. The proposed amendments were also copied to John Kingsley and Mary Dee Heller.

IV. Updates on Federal Program

The Farm Bill is still pending at this time. How funds will be distributed, to individual properties or through the state program, is still to be decided.

Close open Session – Open Closed Session

8:03pm, motion Tom second Erica to close the open session and open the closed session. Roll call, all ayes, motion carried unanimously.

Re-open Open Session

Chairman Rob Mitzel re-opened the open session at 8:12pm.

Adjourn

Motion Erica second Jean to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:14pm. All ayes, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Perry