



DEXTER TOWNSHIP

FARMLAND AND OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION BOARD

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REGULAR MEETING OF THE FARMLAND AND OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION BOARD

Thursday, March 7, 2024

Present: Chairperson Mark Teicher; Vice-Chairperson Scott Joling; Township Board Representative Laura Sanders; Secretary Kathy Bradbury; Marty Ruhlig; Guerin Wilkinson; Deb Mielke

Absent/excused: None

Also present: FOSP Board Consultant Barry Lonik; Pam Weber, Recording Secretary.

Audience present: None

1. Call to Order: Chairperson Teicher called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda:

Motion Wilkinson; support Joling, to approve the agenda as presented for March.
Unanimous voice vote approval.

3. Welcome and Introduction of New Board Member:

Board members introduced themselves and welcomed Deb Mielke. Deb did the same and spoke of her commitment to the Farmland and Open Space Preservation effort.

4. Approval of Past Minutes:

Motion Wilkinson; support Ruhlig, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of December 14, 2023 as presented.
Unanimous voice vote approval.

Motion Sanders; support Joling, to approve the Closed Session minutes of December 14, 2023 as presented with the addition of the names Wilkinson (motion) and Joling (support) added to the motion to return to open session.
Unanimous voice vote approval.

Motion Ruhlig; support Sanders, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of February 1, 2024 as presented with a correction to the spelling of Ruhlig's name on page 3, 11. Adjournment.
Unanimous voice vote approval.

Motion Wilkinson; support Ruhlig, to approve the Closed Session minutes of February 1, 2024 as presented.

Unanimous voice vote approval.

5. Public Comment – 1st call: (non-agenda items): None

6. Master Plan Approval and Relationship to FOSPB:

Lonik stated the plan was approved and noted the positive impact it will have on FOSP Board preservation activities. Sanders concurred and commented on the great work Lonik did engaging the public, the thoroughness of the Master Plan document, which includes good ideas around smart development and preservation and a focus on agritourism.

Teicher remarked there was an overwhelming positive response in the survey to preserve Township land.

7. Consultant's Report:

- Lonik completed his orientation with the new FOSP Board Member on Saturday.
- State Grant Program: There was one grant award received for \$200,000.
- Summary Sheet: Lonik confirmed with the Treasurer that the millage will generate around \$225,000. With the additional designation from the Board of Trustees, there is approximately \$700,000 for the FOSPB.
- An updated Township sign design/proposal was provided to the FOSP Board. Signage includes a notation that the property is private to ensure no public access. The proposal from Benchmark for 5 signs is \$238.50. Sanders will inform the Board of Trustees there will be additional costs, not to exceed \$200.00, for supplies/installation.

Motion Joling; support Ruhlig to recommend to the Board of Trustees the purchase of Preserved Farmland and Open Space signs according to the invoice provided by Benchmark for five signs at a cost of \$238.50.

Unanimous voice vote approval.

- FOSP Board members approve of Lonik's draft landowner letter as per the email packet. Lonik has identified 34 farmland and 47 natural areas owners for the letters.
- The new 2025 fiscal year begins April 1, 2024. The Board of Trustees was pleased the FOSP Board recommended not restricting the BOT designated funds.
- Lonik attended an Ann Arbor City Council meeting where expansion of the Greenbelt boundary was discussed. The expansion may include the entire Huron River Watershed, which encompasses all of Dexter Township. This is a potential funding source for Dexter Township properties with water features. Approval is slated for late March or in April.

- Due to changes in RCPP criterion, locally awarded RCPP funds may now be accessible to Dexter Township.
- NATAC has a substantial fund balance. Lonik will pursue these funds as appropriate natural features property applications are submitted.

8. Committee Member Q & A:

- Sanders will check on the FOSP Board's authority to spend \$500 without Board of Trustees approval.
- Bradbury asked when FOSP Board position elections are due. Teicher to investigate.
- Bradbury will be absent for the April meeting, which will be held at 7:00 p.m.

9. Closed Session:

Motion Teicher; support Ruhlig to move the Board into closed session under section 8 of the Open Meetings Act, to consult with our consultant regarding the potential purchase of development rights of certain properties.

Ayes: Wilkinson, Teicher, Mielke, Bradbury, Sanders, Ruhlig, Joling

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carries.

The Board Entered Closed Session at 6:50 p.m.

Motion Ruhlig; support Bradbury to return to Open Public Meeting.

Unanimous voice vote approval.

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:14 PM.

Motion Joling; support Mielke to recommend to the Board of Trustees to spend approximately \$5,000 on the appraisal for the property 2022-2.

Unanimous voice vote approval.

10. Public comment – 2nd call: None

11. Adjournment:

Motion Ruhlig; support Wilkinson to adjourn at 7:19 p.m.

Unanimous voice vote approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Bradbury, Secretary

Pam Weber, Recording Secretary

*Next meeting of the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Board is April 4, 2024.
Agenda due date is March 28, 2024*