



DEXTER TOWNSHIP

FARMLAND AND OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION BOARD

6880 DEXTER-PINCKNEY ROAD

DEXTER, MI 48130

TELEPHONE: 734-426-3767

FAX: 734-426-3833

WWW.DEXTERTOWNSHIP.ORG

REGULAR MEETING OF THE FARMLAND AND OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION BOARD

Thursday, June 6, 2024

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

Absent/excused: None

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

Audience present: Betsy VanOrnum

1. Call to Order: Chairperson Teicher called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda:

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

3. Approval of Past Minutes:

Motion Ruhlig; support Bradbury, to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of May 2, 2024 as presented.

Unanimous voice vote approval with Sanders abstaining.

Motion Joling; support Mielke, to approve the Closed Session minutes of May 2, 2024 as presented.

Unanimous voice vote approval with Sanders abstaining.

4. Public Comment – 1st call: (non-agenda items):

Opened for public comment at 7:08 p.m.

Ms. VanOrnum introduced herself and expressed concern about the condominiums in Dexter near the viaduct and general interest in land preservation.

Closed for public comment at 7:11 p.m.

5. Consultant's Report:

- A third Federal grant awarded was given. Dexter Township's dedicated milage generates \$230,000/year to conserve land and match with other funding sources to buy the development rights of properties.
- The federal RCPP program, part of the USDA farm bill, now has \$25,000,000 available in matching funds for any type of property, woods, farmland, etc. Dexter Township, together with the other funded townships and programs, will apply for the full amount of eligible funds. Legacy Land Conservancy is the core organization for submitting a combined application for the partners (for up to 50% of each partner's eligible funds). Matching funds do not have to be solely milage derived. Dexter Township has 1500 acres to preserve. Supervisor KS will receive a letter to sign.
- Lonik was told by the Greenbelt Program that he can start forwarding applications toward the end of 2024. He plans to submit several applications for Greenbelt funding.
- The Monier land preservation sign was installed along the eastern boundary of the Westlake preserve. Lonik and the state grant program representative went on the first monitoring visit, which included that property. Dexter Township's newsletter included a nice insert with the sign photo.

6. Committee Member Q & A: None

7. Closed Session:

Motion Teicher support; Sanders, 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: Bradbury; Wilkinson; Joling; Sanders; Ruhlig; Mielke; Teicher

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carries.

The Board Entered Closed Session at 7:28 p.m.

Motion Bradbury; support Wilkinson, to return to Open Public Meeting.

Unanimous voice vote approval.

The Board returned to Open Session at 7:48 p.m.

Motion Joling; support Mielke, to recommend to the Board of Trustees, payment of \$3,250 for an appraisal of property 2023-4.

Unanimous voice vote approval.

8. Next Meeting: July Meeting Date

Teicher will consult with the Office Manager to confirm availability of the meeting space for the anticipated meeting date of July 11, 2024.

Motion Mielke; support Ruhlig, to move the July meeting to Thursday, July 11, 2024.

Unanimous voice vote approval

9. FOSPB representative at Renewal Energy Community Presentation Monday, June 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Teicher explained the reason for this public meeting, for which he cannot be in attendance. He requested FOSP Board member(s) represent him at the meeting and explain the function of the FOSP Board. The practice session is next Tuesday morning. Mielke and Bradbury will attend. Teicher will give a written report to assist with their understanding.

10. Public comment – 2nd call:

Opened for public comment at 8:08 p.m.

Ms. VanOrnum asked if a map exists showing potential preservation areas. She was guided to look at the zoning ordinance to view how areas/properties are zoned. She also asked if there are current or future plans for land conservation. Board members commented they are open to land conservation should property become available.

Closed for public comment at 8:12 p.m.

11. Committee Member Comments and New Ideas: None

12. Adjournment:

Motion Ruhlig; support Sanders to adjourn at 8:12 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 July 11, 2024.
Agenda due date is July 4, 2024*