



# DEXTER TOWNSHIP

## OPEN SPACE AND LAND PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

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### REGULAR MEETING OF THE OSLP COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 17, 2021

#### 1. Call to Order and Welcome:

Laura Sanders, Trustee, called the meeting to order at 8:05 pm. She stated the purpose of the committee was to be exploratory, educational, engage the community and advise the Township Board.

#### 2. Approval of Agenda:

Motion by Lesser, seconded by Bradbury, to approve the agenda as presented.  
Motion carried 6-0.

#### 3. Introduction of Committee members:

Each member introduced themselves and gave a brief summary of why they wanted to be on the committee.

OSLP Committee members are: Michelle Stamboulellis, Township Clerk; Laura Sanders, Township Trustee; Ginny Trocchio, Dale Lesser, Kathy Bradbury, Dianne Monier, and Frank Johnson (absent tonight).

#### 3a. Election of Officers:

Motion by Trocchio to nominate Laura Sanders as Chairperson, Michelle Stamboulellis as Vice-Chair, and Dianne Monier as Secretary. Motion second by Lesser.  
Motion carried 6-0.

#### 4. Introduction: The purpose of the OSLP Committee:

As stated in #1.

#### 5. Discussion of OSLP Issues:

Information to create specific goals for the committee.

- 1) What drives your passion and why do you want to be involved in land preservation?  
Using land preservation as a buffer to protect the lakes and streams. The need to keep open space for farming and recreational activities. Land preservation protects existing woodlands and wetlands. Give large landowners an alternative to selling their land to solar farms. Reference to PA116, the Michigan Farmland and Open Space Preservation Act (a law that works to preserve farmland by offering incentives to farmers who want to participate).

- 2) What questions do you have about land preservation issues and initiatives? What roll does the OSLP have that other organizations are already addressing and how do we work together? Can a property still be used if it is placed in preservation? Do the Federal programs restrict farming? What are the township's priorities? Can a PDR be reversed? What are the mechanics of land preservation? What is the difference between a conservation easement and development rights? How do we create funding for land preservation? Will it be possible to develop a preservation approach that doesn't get mired down in the process? Can a set of guidelines be created to create natural buffer areas where development is proposed? Can a way be set up for the public to inform the Township when natural areas are being adversely impacted?

**6. Public Participation:**

Opened 9:08 pm

Ramiro Martinez: He questioned the length of land preservation once it is initiated. He noted that there is a difference in water levels and traffic with more development.

Barry Lonik: He thought everyone needed greater depth of education on various ways to conserve land.

Harley Rider: He wanted to clarify that Ordinance #37 (establishing the procedure for acquiring and financing the acquisition of the development rights) was adopted by the Township Board on August 29, 2005. He questioned the committee direction [without documentation from the Township Board].

Closed 9:12 pm

**7. Process and Procedures moving forward:**

- a. Setting meeting dates and time of meeting:

Meetings will occur on the third Thursday of each month at 8:00 pm at the Dexter Township Hall. Times are subject to change depending on the needs of the committee members.

- b. Public notification:

Plans are to have a committee web-page on the Dexter Township website with dates and logistics posted on the home page.

- c. Reporting to the Dexter Township Board of Trustees:

Board representatives will update the Board of Trustees as to the process and progress of the OSLP Committee.

- d. Minute's recording and retention:

Notes will be taken and minutes produced and posted for each meeting.

**8. Public Comment:**

Harley Rider: Noted that public participation needed to be at both the beginning and end of

*Documents regarding the agenda items can be obtained at the Township Hall during normal business hours, the Townships website: [www.dextertownship.org](http://www.dextertownship.org) and can be viewed on [ew.livestream.com/dextertownship.org](http://ew.livestream.com/dextertownship.org).*

the agenda. He wasn't clear as to what the committee function was. Also, he noted that there were no incorporating documents or bylaws.

**9. Adjournment:**

With the agenda completed and no further business, Chairperson Sanders declared the meeting adjourned at 9:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dianne Monier, Secretary

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Janis Miller, Recording Secretary

approved 07/22/2021