



DEXTER TOWNSHIP

OPEN SPACE AND LAND PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

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REGULAR MEETING OF THE OSLP COMMITTEE Thursday, July 7, 2022

Present: Chairperson Laura Sanders, Vice-Chairperson Michelle Stamboulellis, Secretary Dianne Monier, Ginny Leikam, Dale Lesser, Mark Teicher. Absent: Kathy Bradbury.

Also present: Barry Lonik, OSLP Consultant, and Janis Miller, Recording Secretary.

Audience present: Rick Monier and Nick Stamboulellis.

- 1. Call to Order:** Chairperson Sanders called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM.
- 2. Approval of Agenda:**
Moved by Leikam, seconded by Teicher, to approve the agenda as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.
- 3. Approval of Minutes:**
Moved by Teicher, seconded by Stamboulellis, to approve the minutes of May 5, 2022 as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.
- 4. Report on the revision and approval BOT of Ordinance 37:** Barry Lonik
Barry summarized his June 21, 2022 presentation to the Dexter Township Board of Trustees. A memo from Board of Trustee Karen Sikkenga was read explaining the addition of the Land Stewardship criteria and scoring. Barry Lonik answered questions from Committee members.
- 5. Public Comment:** (non-agenda items) Opened 8:09 PM. No comments.
- 6. Update on funding sources for OSLP and pending applications:** Barry Lonik
Barry stated that the Federal application for the Monier property had been submitted and we should have an answer by September 30th. Grants are given to the highest scoring properties. The Monier property will be re-submitted in January 2023 for a State Grant. As there was confusion about the process it was once again noted that the OSLP is only an advisory committee. Currently Consultant Lonik will do the property scoring and submit the applications for grants. When a grant is awarded to Dexter Township, the OSLP committee will review it and forward a recommendation to the Township Board.

7. Update on official preparation for millage proposal and next steps: Michelle
The County has approved the language that will be placed on the November ballot. Barry confirmed that if the millage is approved, it would appear on the Winter 2022 tax bills.

8. Report on HRWC coalition and millage campaigns: Laura, Michelle
Chairperson Sanders reported there are several township's trying to get land preservation proposals passed. "Dexter Township Land and Lakes Preservation" is the official name of the campaign. Possibility of the campaign committee sending a mailing prior to the November ballot proposal.

8:28 pm Dale Lesser arrives and the discussion returns to Ordinance #37.

Ordinance 37 continued discussion:

Scoring must be "apples to apples". Certified Organic is complicated and cost prohibited. How to score "low input"? Need a definition for low input. Scoring is based on criteria of the land not on the land owner. A conservation easement does not require the land to be farmed. Scoring does not have an impact on the grant [amount] funding or partnerships.

9. Planning for summer "Celebration of Farmers and Farmland" event: Laura, Michelle
What is to happen at this event? Educate attendees about farmland preservation and how it benefits the community. Where to hold the event? Hudson Mills charges per car. Discussion on how to reimburse attendees the entrance fee. Possibly hold event at Cornman Farms? Developing an educational flyer to hand out. Mailing an educational postcard. Should there be food or music at the event? Possibly hold the event in mid-September. Have the Sun Times News publish an informational article promoting the event.

10. Discussion on the creation of an official OSLP Board: Laura
An OSLP Board is more official and scores property to recommend to the Board of Trustees. Ordinance 37 spells out the member make-up of the OSLP Board. Recommendation to reexamine this issue after the November Ballot proposal is approved and possibly seat the OSLP Board in January 2023.

11. Public Comment: Opened 9:35 PM. No comments.

12. Adjournment: With the agenda complete, Chairperson Sanders declared the meeting adjourned at 9:36 PM.

NOTE: The next scheduled OSLP meeting will be August 4th.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Monier, Secretary

Janis Miller, Recording Secretary