



DEXTER TOWNSHIP

FARMLAND AND OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION BOARD

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REGULAR MEETING OF THE FARMLAND AND OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION BOARD

Thursday, November 2, 2023

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

Absent: Guerin Wilkinson; Gretchen Driskell

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

Audience present: Jill Dohner

1. Call to Order: Chairperson Teicher called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance: Skipped

3. Approval of Agenda:

Motion Sanders; support Joling, to approve the agenda as presented for November.
Unanimous voice vote approval with Wilkinson and Driskell absent.

4. Approval of Minutes:

Motion Joling; support Ruhlig, to approve the meeting minutes of October 5, 2023.
Unanimous voice vote approval with Wilkinson and Driskell absent.

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

Jill Dohner MIFarmLink Specialist, in attendance to learn about the FOSP Board and offer assistance. The MIFarmLink program in Washtenaw County connects older farmers without succession plans to new farmers. She handed out fliers and thanked the Board for being here.

6. Discussion on Master Plan's Relationship to the Goals of this Board:

A meeting was held with the new planning consultant Megan Masson-Minock of Carlisle Wortman Associates, to discuss zoning of conserved properties.

7. Monthly Report to Board of Trustees:

To improve communication, each Board will provide a monthly summary update. Teicher and Lonik will be making presentations to the Board of Trustees on November 21, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

8. Possible Revising of Scoring System in Relation to Master Plan and Strategic Planning:

Supervisor Sikkenga would like the scoring system for natural areas and farmlands to be more flexible to balance the importance of both and to ensure alignment with the master plan. Lonik will look at the scoring system, however, he noted it has worked well for many years.

9. Discussion on Master Plan's Relationship to the Goals of this Board

- Potential additional funding sources in Washtenaw County were discussed, including expansion of Ann Arbor's Greenbelt Program for source water protection. Lonik will continue to look for additional sources.
- There was a brief discussion about the cost of developing natural land vs. farmlands.

10. Board member visits to properties:

Lonik asked to be contacted prior to Board member visits to properties so that he can notify owners.

11. Consultant's Report:

City of Ann Arbor meetings/funding:

Discussion of the Greenbelt Program, current boundary and potential expansion.

The ACEP deadline:

The date is November 13, 2023.

Public Projects:

Monier-Van Gorder farm ACEP, state and county funds have been approved and the closing date is anticipated this year. Diane Monier-Van Gorder plans to come in to say thank you. Teicher suggests a photo op with her so that other farmers will see what is possible.

12. Committee Member Q & A:

Bradbury recommends adding approval of Closed Session Meeting Minutes to the on-going agenda.

13. 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: Joling, Ruhlig, Bradbury, Sanders; Teicher

Nays: None

Absent: Wilkinson; Driskell

Documents regarding the agenda items can be obtained at the Township Hall during normal business hours or the Townships website: www.dextertownship.org.

Motion Carries.

The Board Entered Closed Session at 7:44 p.m.

Motion Joling; support Ruhlig to return to Open Public Meeting.
Unanimous voice vote approval with Wilkinson and Driskell absent.

The Board returned to Open Session at 8:07 p.m.

14. Public comment – 2nd call: None

15. Adjournment:

Motion Ruhlig; support Bradbury to adjourn at 8:09 p.m.
Unanimous voice vote approval with Wilkinson and Driskell absent.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Bradbury, Secretary

Pam Weber, Recording Secretary

Next meeting of the Farmland and Open Space Preservation Board is December 7, 2023.