

Dexter Township

“in the loop”

May 2022

Good afternoon – time for another short update on Dexter Township’s activities – what has happened and what maybe upcoming. If you have an opportunity, please share information about our email “in the loop” updates with your Dexter Township neighbors and friends. We are reaching out to increase the participation with our updates to try to reach into our community and keep everyone informed. Below are a few highlights from April and early May’s activities.

OPEN SPACE AND LAND PRESERVATION (OSLP) COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Trustee Sanders prepared the article below on the activities of the OSLP

The OSLP (Open Space and Land Preservation Committee) formed last June with the charge of engaging and educating the community and the township board about preserving farmland, natural areas, and lakes. We really hit the ground running and have accomplished a lot in the past year starting with educating ourselves. We are so lucky to have Ginny Leikam from Washtenaw County’s land preservation program live in our township and agree to teach us.

We have relied on the amazing knowledge and networks of Dale Lesser, our local farmer who is deeply connected to our farming community and is a proponent of farmland preservation. Also on our committee is farm-owner, Diane Monnier and rounding out the committee are Kathy Bradbury, and Mark Teicher, who live on, and work to preserve our lakes and surrounding lands. Michelle Stamboulellis and Laura Sanders represent the Board of Trustees (BOT). Additionally, we have the support of Barry Lonik, from Treemore Consultation Service, who lives in our township and is now consulting with our board to start a land preservation program in Dexter Township. He has helped several other nearby townships create thriving land preservation programs. We are so lucky to have him in our community and with our team. We spent the first few months really learning the reasons, process and requirements of land and natural area preservation, culminating in a community social and educational event for farmland owners in March, at the Township Hall. Farmers learned about their prospects for preserving their farm- and natural lands and how the creation of a supported land preservation program opens options to farmers who may feel pressured to sell to developers. It was wonderful to come out of the isolation of winter and the pandemic to such a hopeful event that was very well-attended.

The BOT, showing a unanimous dedication to land preservation put up \$330,000 of seed money to launch the program, and a few Dexter Township residents have begun applying for matching funds.

A piece of our work has been to review our current OSLP Ordinance 37, to update and revise it. **We have submitted changes to the Planning Commission, which will open a Public Hearing for**

these ordinance changes at the next Planning Commission Meeting on Tuesday, May 24, at 6:00pm, at the Township Hall. The public is invited to ask questions or make comments at this hearing.

An outcome of the work of the OSLP committee has been the Board of Trustee's unanimous approval to put a proposal for Open Space and Land Preservation on the November ballot. It asks voters to determine a .5 millage (\$.50 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for the purposes of land preservation over a ten-year period. In the first year, the estimated revenue will be \$220,810, to really begin our OSLP Program. We have listened to the voices in our community speak to preserve the beauty and rural nature of Dexter Township. Soon our community to be asked to speak through their voting ability to whether, keeping the rural character and open space of Dexter Township is truly important. Attached is an article highlighting some of the rationale for our community to move in this direction. If you have any questions, please email Trustee Sanders at lsanders@dextertownship.org or clerk@dextertownship.org or to info@dextertownship.org.

DEXTER TOWNSHIP ROAD COMMITTEE:

At the May 2022 Board of Trustee (BOT) meeting approval was granted to form a seven-person Dexter Township Road Committee. Their focus will be education, innovation, and increasing the communication with the WCRC (Washtenaw Cty Road Commission). Members appointed include Lois Beerbaum, Patrick Casady, Christy Maier, Mark Teicher, Charles Wolf, Tom Zatkovich and Trustee Karen Sikkenga. Meetings will be held quarterly and the WCRC has graciously allowed a representative (Adam Lape) from their organization to join the Township committee. Road questions may be directed to ksikkenga@dextertownship.org or info@dextertownship.org Thank you for everyone who has stepped up to assist in serving our community.

BROADBAND UPDATE:

We have had quite a few questions on what the status of Broadband for the community is since it was posted on the Dexter Township website that all broadband committee meetings are on hold. Currently, the project is still under Washtenaw County guidance and very active. They hired a broadband project manager, and they are trying to finalize contracts with the providers that have been awarded Dexter Township. Charter/Spectrum has been awarded the properties under the County gap funding and Mercury Wireless for the RDOF portion. We understand that Charter/Spectrum has been out surveying but no formal information is shareable currently. Finger crossed the June meeting of the Washtenaw County Broadband Task Force releases additional information; we will share that immediately. If you have additional questions on your property please email Trustee Nolte at knolte@dextertownship.org or submit your questions to info@dextertownship.org Thank you

Spring CLEAN UP DAY in Dexter Township – Bulk items and scrap metal – MAY 14th UPDATE

Dexter Township hosted our second cleanup day event in the parking lot of the Townhall on Saturday, May 14th. At this event, we collected four large dumpsters of bulk items from our residents, accompanied by two large dumpsters of scrap metal. Thank you for Jim's Scrap Metal – your team was so appreciated. Not only for picking up all the scrap metal but for all the assistance you gave to our volunteers. Speaking of volunteers – THANK YOU to the 15 volunteers who worked extremely hard to unload cars and load the dumpsters. Without the volunteers we would be unable to offer this type of event to our residents. Finally, I regret I do not have your name, but to the person who dragged the sofa and cushions out of Stinchfield Woods and trailered them to our cleanup site. Your efforts are noted, you have created new conversations to advance the cleanup of our township and your sense of community is greatly appreciated. THANK YOU to all involved, it was a successful event, and we look forward to October's full recycling event: to include electronic waste, tires, scrap metal, shredding and styrofoam collection to be offered. See you in the fall. Below is a picture of all our volunteers – what a crew! Thanks again! (If you would like to volunteer, just drop us an email at info@dextertownship.org)



Finally – thank you to all the residents who contacted Jillian Brown regarding composting from our last “in the loop” email. They are most appreciative!

Stay tuned – a lot is happening and our next “in the loop” will update additional topics in the next week or two. Take care, be safe over the holiday weekend and ENJOY.

Karen Nolte
Dexter Twp. Trustee