



**ACME TOWNSHIP
FARMLAND & OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Tuesday, January 23, 2007, 4:00 p.m.
Acme Township Hall
6042 Acme Road, Williamsburg MI 49690**

Meeting called to Order at 4:10 p.m.

Members present: B. Garvey (Chair) B. Carstens, K. Engle, W. Kladder, D. Morrison
Members excused: R. Saylor
Staff present: S. Corpe, Township Manager
N. Edwardson, Recording Secretary
Also present: B. Bourdages, Farmland Preservation

1. **Limited Public Comment:** None
2. **Approval of Minutes from December 19, 2006, Meeting.**

Motion by Kladder. Seconded by Carstens to approve the meeting minutes from December 19, 2006, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Old Business

1) Update on Grand Traverse County Farmland Preservation Board Progress

* Status of Inter-local agreement between Acme Township and Grand County.

Bourdages reported that there had been a little twist on County activity regarding the inter-local agreement. The County Board accepted it in the "Ways and Means" committee which was a little peculiar as they already had adopted it once with a few minor changes under the Administration agenda. Bourdages believes it will be taken up at the next meeting with no problems.

2) Update on State Qualification

Bourdages is waiting to see what the Acme Planning Commission does with the Future Land Use Map. There was another Planning Commission work session meeting on the Future Land Use Map on January 22. The only requirement from the State would be for Acme Township to show PDR eligibility. Engle commented that there was a 75 days comment period for surrounding townships and government entities to look over the Future Land Use Map and make comments or suggestions.

Discussion turned to matching funds. Kladder asked how do we get matching funds. Garvey asked about approaching Glenn Chown, of the Conservancy. Bourdages thought it would be a great thing to sit down with him. Perhaps Garvey, Kladder and maybe Morrison. Kladder thought we should put together a packet with all the information.

3) Federal Farm and Ranchland Protection Program Update

*** Review of proposed American Farmland Trust suggested program change**

Bourdages handed out a Farm and Ranch Land Protection Amendment Summary. The overall purpose of the amendment is to eliminate duplicative requirements and streamline the program to make it more responsive to long-established farm and ranch land protection programs, more farmer-friendly and to save taxpayer money, while maintaining safeguards to assure that working farm and ranch land is adequately protected.

4. New Business

1) Actions taken by Acme Township Board at January 9, 2007, Meeting

*** Approved Intergovernmental agreement with County Board**

*** Approved procurement of appraisal services**

Bourdages reviewed the Board approval of the intergovernmental agreement and procurement of appraisal services at the January 9, 2007, meeting. Bourdages had a draft of a letter seeking appraisal services. Kladder felt that it should also be advertised in the Record Eagle and posted on the township website.

2) Review of Agricultural Conservation Easement Terms from Grand Traverse County Farmland Ordinance

*** Consider method for preparing draft easement for use with Township program**

Bourdages reviewed Section 2: Definitions, Section 8: Agricultural Conservation Easement Provisions and Section 9: Duration of the Agricultural Conservation Easement. This Ordinance has been adopted by the County. Garvey asked what the timeline would be to do a draft easement. Bourdages said there are people at the Conservancy that could have one in a few weeks.

Kladder commented that as a committee we need to find more encompassing ways to promote agricultural tourism in this township.

Adjourned at 6:15 p.m.