

## MINUTES OF MEETING

### NATURAL AREAS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Date:** February 3, 2020  
**Time:** 4:00 p.m.  
**Place:** Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission  
Administrative Building, 2230 Platt Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8645

**NATAC Members Present:** Catherine Riseng, Bob Grese, Kris Olsson, Sue Lackey, Sylvia Taylor, Tony Reznicek and Dave Lutton

**NATAC Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:**

Ginny Trocchio, Superintendent of Park Planning and Natural Areas  
Rosie Pahl Donaldson, Park Planner

**Others Present:**

Erik Grossman

**Call to Order:**

Chair Lutton called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM.

**Consideration of Minutes of November 3, 2019:**

It was moved by Lackey and seconded by Taylor that the minutes of the November 3, 2019 meeting be approved. *All in favor. Motion carried.*

**Public Comment:**

Erik Grossman addressed the committee and passed out maps showing the connectivity of his property, his father's property with the Leslee Niethammer property.

**Special Order of Business**

**a. Irwin Recommendation – A19.125**

Legacy Land Conservancy is taking the lead on the project. Legacy received a USDA grant that will cover 45% of the purchase price. Legacy is requesting 40% contribution from NAPP. ALPAC reviewed the property at their last meeting and have requested that NATAC review the property and contribute half of the requested funds. NATAC visited the site in 2019 and identified it as a priority for protection. Ms. Pahl Donaldson noted that roughly 40% of the property consists of natural area and includes Mill Creek.

*It was moved by Taylor, seconded by Olsson to recommend to the Parks and Recreation Commission to partner with Legacy Land Conservancy on the purchase of a conservation easement on the Irwin Property and to contribute 20% of the purchase price, or \$94,856.*

**b. Boss & Bull Holdings and Braun: Northfield Woods Expansion Opportunity**

These properties are adjacent to Northfield Woods Preserve. Northfield Woods is currently slated for a restoration project in partnership with Ducks Unlimited and USFWS through their private lands program. Ms. Trocchio provided an overview of

the similar restoration work underway at Watkins Lake and Sharon Mills Park. Adding to Northfield Woods Preserve, would potentially allow the restoration project to include these additional properties, thus adding trails to the current system and establishing wetlands and grasslands.

The Committee directed staff to go ahead and move forward with an appraisal on the properties. The Committee recognized that this was out of the normal procedure for them to consider a property before the entire Round 20 has been evaluated and prioritized; however given its connectivity to an existing preserve as well as timing for potential restoration work, deemed it appropriate to move forward at this time.

**c. Burkhardt / Kidder property: Scio Woods Expansion Opportunity**

This property was reviewed back in 2008 when the original Scio Woods Nature Preserve was purchased. At the time, the landowner was not willing to move forward on the purchase. Since that time, Lew Kidder has purchased the property and nominated it to NAPP.

As with the above mentioned properties, the Committee directed staff to move forward with an appraisal. The committee members remember visiting the property in 2008 and this was a high priority for acquisition at the time.

**d. Moyad Update – 19.310 (Bridgewater Township)**

This is a Round 19 property that was identified as a Tier 1 property. Ms. Pahl Donaldson provided an update to the committee. There is some difficulty with access to the property. The landowner's realtor indicated to her that the landowner would be willing to demo the house and buildings on the site if NAPP would purchase the entire property.

The committee requested that staff work with the appraiser to get appraised values both with the original configuration as well as with the additional acres with the buildings removed. Staff will also do additional research on the access to the property.

**e. Westman Update – 16.271 (100 acres, Webster Township)**

Ms. Pahl Donaldson provided an update on the landowner's request for land division and building envelopes. The committee was generally accepting of the layout, but asked staff to work with the landowner to clean up the lines for ease of monitoring easement in the future.

**Other items from members:**

None.

**Adjournment.**

Motion made by Lackey and seconded by Olsson to adjourn the meeting. Chair Lutton adjourned the meeting at 5:15 PM.

➤ **Next meeting – Monday, March 2, 2020**