

MINUTES OF MEETING

NATURAL AREAS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Date: March 1, 2021
Time: 4:00 p.m.
Place: Via Zoom

Roll Call Attendance:

Sylvia Taylor, present attending from Willis, MI
Bob Grese, present attending from Ann Arbor, MI
Dave Lutton, present attending from Scio Township, MI
Catherine Riseng, present attending from Ann Arbor, MI
Kris Olsson, present attending from Ann Arbor Township, MI
Tony Reznicek, present attending from Ann Arbor, MI
Sue Lackey, present attending from Chelsea, MI

NATAC Members Absent: None.

Staff Present:

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

Others Present:

Barry Lonik

Call to Order:

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

Consideration of Minutes of February 1, 2021:

It was moved by Lackey and seconded by Riseng that the minutes of the February 1, 2021 meeting be approved. *All in favor. Motion carried.*

Public Comment:

None.

Progress Report /Recommendation on properties in consideration – Rounds 1-20

Staff reviewed the financials for NATAC. Bonner may fall through; staff still working with the landowner and realtor. Gotfredson has another offer for the purchase. Committee members asked if it is sold, can NATAC consider a conservation easement on the property.

Staff noted that so far for Round 21, 5 additional nominations have been received.

Moyad Update – 19.310 (various acres, Bridgewater Township)

The property was a tier 1 for Round 19 projects. The landowner is only willing to sell the entire parcel, which would require taking down the buildings on the site. As a follow up to the previous meetings, staff discussed the property with local historic preservation groups and has received additional information on the significance of the house. After discussion, it was agreed that staff will draft a letter to the township supervisor to get feedback, especially if decided to purchase and demo the buildings.

J. Russell Recommendation – 16.268, Scio Township, 16.268 ac.
Staff presented the updated appraisal and details of the acquisition. The property was nominated in Round 16 and a Trust Fund grant has been received for a portion of the acquisition costs. Staff is also working on partnership with the City of Ann Arbor, Scio Township and Legacy Land Conservancy. The appraised value was determined to be \$460,000. The Trust Fund grant is in the amount of \$276,000, leaving \$184,000 to be split with partners. Parks will also pay for a portion where the B2B trail will be built.

Moved by Reznicek, seconded by Grese to recommend to Parks Commission to move forward with the purchase of the property and explore partnerships. *All in favor. Motion carried.*

Other items from members

The committee members discussed outreach strategy for key parcels. It take time to develop relationships with landowners and timing has to be right for landowners to want to protect their properties. Committee members discussed several options, including partnering with HRWC through their Bioreserve program to establish relationships with landowners. NATAC members decided to set up a subcommittee to discuss strategies and identify key parcels. The subcommittee will consist of Kris, Tony and Bob.

Moved by Lackey, seconded by Olsson to adjourn the meeting. All in favor. The meeting adjourned at 5:05 PM.