



**ACME TOWNSHIP  
FARMLAND & OPEN SPACE PRESERVATION  
CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Thursday, May 22, 2008, 2:00 p.m.  
Acme Township Hall  
6042 Acme Road, Williamsburg MI 49690**

**Meeting called to Order at 2:00 p.m.**

**Members present:** B. Carstens, G. LaPointe, W. Kladder, Township Supervisor, S. Vreeland, Township Manager  
**Members excused:** B. Garvey (Chairman)  
**Staff present:** N. Edwardson, Recording Secretary  
**Also present:** B. Bourdages, Farmland Preservation

Bourdages chaired the committee in Garvey's absence.

**1. Limited Public Comment: None**

**2. Approval of Minutes from April 24, 2008, Meeting:**

**Motion by Kladder. Seconded by LaPointe to approve the meeting minutes from April 24, 2008, with one correction. Motion carried unanimously.**

**3. Review of "Letter to Proceed" and discussion of next steps**

Bourdages read through the "Letter to Intent to Proceed" form given to committee members. The purpose of this letter is to confirm the Applicant's desire and intention to proceed with an effort to sell an Agricultural Conservation Easement (PDR) to Acme Township. The Applicant and the Township intend to work collaboratively with each other in this effort. This Letter of Intent is not a commitment to purchase an Agricultural Conservation Easement from the Applicant by the Township. It is not a legally binding commitment, it is a written expression of the parties desire to continue working together on the project.

**MOTION BY CARSTENS. SECONDED BY KLADDER TO RECOMMEND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO SIGN THE "LETTER OF INTENT TO PROCEED" AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**4. Discussion of the status of Agricultural Conservation Easement Model Document**

Bourdages said this was a legal instrument that belongs to the Township. Scott Howard, a local Attorney, is on retainer for the Conservancy to review this document. Bourdages will bring materials to the committee when available. The easement model is the template for the way you can divide the property. The easement does not trump the ordinance.

**5. Update on new Farm Bill FRPP provisions**

Bourdages talked about FRPP – Farmland Ranch Protection Program. This bill is over 25,000 pages in length. There are many items covered such as food stamps, school lunch programs. There are farmland components in the Farm Bill. There are very strict guidelines. This program would make grants available to entities like the township. Bourdages said we need to start building our case now. There will be more information to come.

**6. Discussion of possible procurement of services from Evergreen Consulting for “Pensions for Preservation” tool creation and other financial planning services**

Bourdages said Evergreen Consulting offers financial planning services referred to as “Pensions for Preservation”. Retirement akin to PDR sales in exchange for their land.

Kladder challenged the committee to expand its role. Perhaps a action plan for agricultural Development or housing issues in the township. He would like the committee to think about the possibilities.

**ADJOURNED AT 3:45 p.m.**