

**MARION TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING
APRIL 20, 2022**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Les Andersen, Tammy Beal, Sandy Donovan, Greg Durbin, Dan Lowe, and Bob Hanvey

MEMBERS ABSENT: Scott Lloyd

OTHERS PRESENT: Marion Township Planning Commission, Zoning Administrator Dave Hamann, Planner John Enos, Sara Thomas Livingston Conservatory Director, Barry Lonik of Treemore Ecology & Land Services

CALL TO ORDER

Bob Hanvey called the meeting to order at 7:43 pm.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

None heard

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Les Andersen made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, supported by Greg Durbin. **Motion carried.**

PDR PRESENTATION

Jim Anderson introduced Sara Thomas with the Livingston Land Conservatory and Barry Lonik of Treemore Ecology & Land Services.

John Enos explained that they are with us to explain about preserving open space and farmland. Washtenaw County has been doing this for years, buying the development rights of the property or purchasing the property outright.

Masterplan survey revealed that residents like Marion Township because of the open space and rural character. What they want is to preserve nature, walking paths, sports fields and play grounds.

Sara Thomas explained that their goal is to preserve the rural character of the community, they work on donations and grants. They are stewards of 16 parcels throughout Livingston County which they monitor the land so that it stays within the parameters of the conservatory. Most jurisdictions waive the taxes on land that is owned by the conservatory, land that has sold only the development will still have taxes.

Barry Lonik explained that there are two ways to protect development rights, one by selling the land out right to a conservatory and the other by selling the development rights. When the development rights are sold then there are permanent restrictions such as no land divisions, no commercial activities, no new structures or impervious surfaces, no roads or mining or resource extractions, no dumps, motorized vehicles or foresting without an approved plan. Some of the permitted activities are agriculture, non-motorized recreation, leasing, ecological restoration, conveyance to another owner and hunting. There is perpetual, annual monitoring and enforcement if the restrictions are not followed. Monies can be obtained through a millage.

CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Rob Sanford from Livingston County Planning said that he is happy to see that Marion Township is investigation PDR's. He explained that in the last 17 years Livingston County has lost almost 9,000 acres that would have been perfect for purchasing of developmental rights. They have a brown bag lunch on this topic coming up.

ADJOURNMENT

Tammy Beal motioned to adjourn at 9:35 pm., Sandy Donovan seconded. **Motion carried.**

Tammy L. Beal, Township Clerk Date

Robert W. Hanvey, Township Supervisor Date