

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
AGENDA
Wednesday, April 6, 2016**

**Town Hall Room
Meridian Municipal Building
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864**

Regular Meeting

1. Call to Order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes of the March 2, 2016 work session and regular meeting, and March 24, 2016 special meeting.
4. Public Remarks
5. Chair's Report
6. Staff Report
 - a. Wetland Use Permit Application Introductions (to be reviewed at the May 4 regular meeting of the Environmental Commission):
 - i. WUP #16-02 for Okemos Pointe.
 - ii. WUP #16-03 for Towner Road Park Improvements.
7. Commissioner Reports
8. Announcement of 2016 Environmental Stewardship Award Winners (**Action Item**)
9. Commission Comments Re: Township Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathway Plan
10. Public Remarks
11. Adjournment

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
Meridian Municipal Building – Town Hall Room
March 2, 2016 - Draft**

WORK SESSION

PRESENT: Chair McConnell, Vice-chair Schools, Commissioners Jackson, Sarver, Kielbaso and Dickmann

ABSENT: Commissioner Jackson

STAFF: Harmony Gmazel, AICP, Associate Planner

OTHERS: None

1. CALL SPECIAL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair McConnell called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE WORK SESSION AGENDA

Approved by consent without objection.

3. DISCUSS ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD NOMINATIONS

The Commission reviewed a memorandum from staff, dated March 2, 2016 that listed each Environmental Stewardship Award nominee. We received an unprecedented number of nominations in each category. The awardees will be announced at the Commission's April 4, 2016 regular meeting. A resolution will be prepared by staff for reading at the April 4 meeting. Nominees will be contacted, as will their nominators, if known after the announcement.

4. OTHER

The Commission briefly discussed the Township Pedestrian Pathway Master plan for review at their April 6 meeting.

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

None

6. ADJOURNMENT

Approved by consent without objection at approximately 6:58 p.m.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
Meridian Municipal Building – Town Hall Room
March 2, 2016 - Draft**

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Chair McConnell, Vice-Chair Schools, Commissioners Dickmann, Sarver and Kielbaso

ABSENT: Commissioner Jackson

STAFF: Harmony Gmazel, AICP, Associate Planner

OTHERS: None

1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER

Chair McConnell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Approved by consent without objection.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 3, 2016 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Moved by Schools, seconded by Kielbaso; **APPROVED** 6-0.

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

L. Provencher commented on the source of the Commission's draft habitat map.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

None

6. Staff Report

H. Gmazel reviewed the draft habitat map that is under development. Wetland Use Permit #16-01 (Ingham Co. Drain Commission) was introduced.

7. Commissioner Reports

Land Preservation: J. Kielbaso reported that the Board is applying for a State grant in 2016 to aid in their work.

Energy Team: J. Sarver reported that the Energy Team is moving ahead with a Climate Action Plan in 2016. MSU Extension is hosting an upcoming energy workshop in March. Michigan Energy Options is hosting a renewable energy series.

Student Engagement: L. Schools reported that she contacted the National Honor Society organizations at local school district in an effort to fill the two empty student seats on the Commission.

8. **GREEN THEME FOR MARCH**: LeRoy Harvey, the Recycling & Energy Coordinator for Meridian Charter Township presented a program update. Harvey highlighted recent successes and upcoming activities for the Township.

9. **PUBLIC REMARKS**

L. Provencher commended the Township recycling program and the bike repair and education program in the Township.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

- **MOTION** by Commissioner Kielbaso to adjourn. **SUPPORTED** by Commissioner Sarver. Approved 6-0. The Regular Meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
Meridian Municipal Building – Administrative Conference Room
March 24, 2016 - Draft**

SPECIAL MEETING

PRESENT: Chair McConnell, Commissioners Jackson, Sarver, Kielbaso and Dickmann

ABSENT: Commissioner Schools

STAFF: Harmony Gmazel, AICP, Associate Planner

OTHERS: None

1. CALL SPECIAL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair McConnell called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Approved by consent without objection.

3. REVIEW/RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WUP #16-01 (Ingham Co. Drain Commissioner)

The Commission had specific questions for the applicant at their March 16, 2016 special meeting which were forwarded to the ICDC's representative related to plantings and engineering designs. The ICDC's subsequent responses were discussed.

The Commission unanimously recommends an approval of WUP #16-01. Staff will develop a memorandum to be shared with the Director of Community Planning and Development.

4. OTHER

The Commission briefly discussed the Township Pedestrian Pathway Master plan for review at their April 6 meeting and potential green theme presentations.

It was also discussed and decided that only those nominees received before the deadline for the Environmental Stewardship Awards would be accepted.

5. PUBLIC REMARKS

None

6. ADJOURNMENT

Approved by consent without objection at approximately 6:05 p.m.

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 28, 2016
To: Mark Kieselbach, Director, Community Planning & Development Department
From: Environmental Commission
Re: WUP #16-01 (Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office)

After completing a review of Wetland Use Permit #16-01 (Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office), the Environmental Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian hereby recommends approval of said wetland use permit. The Commission found that the wetland use permit application goes above and beyond the typical applications that the Environmental Commission has reviewed in years past. The Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office proposes a number of varying habitat areas throughout the project area and will significantly enhance the existing wetland area with more diverse flora and fauna habitat opportunities. The Commission wants to commend the ICDC's Office for the care that they took in preparing the planning of this wetland enhancement.

Upon further review, the Environmental Commission finds that this application offers the Township a unique opportunity to enhance the Hulett-Okemos cross country trail connection that is planned for the area. The Commission recommends that if the project is completed in such a way that provides for a trail crossing over the Smith drain closer to the proposed Okemos Pointe development to the south, a significant trail improvement could be made. There is an existing drain crossing that could serve this purpose, if improved.

Thank you for considering our comments related to this application.

