

Charter Township of Meridian  
Land Preservation Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 15, 2012  
6:00 pm – Meridian Service Center

**Members Present:** Frank Hatfield (left at 7:30 pm), Mary Helmbrecht, James Kielbaso, Jon Mayes, Robert Rusch, Margo Smith, Mark Stephens

**Members Absent:** Steve Webster

**Staff:** Land Management Coordinator Jane Greenway, Parks and Recreation Department Secretary Robin Faust

**Public Present:** Pat Witte, Lake Lansing Parks Manager, Ingham County Parks; Nicholas Sanchez, Ingham County Parks/Mid-Michigan Stewardship Initiative; Leslie Kuhn, Mid-Michigan Stewardship Initiative; Suzan Soderman; Charles Hanley; Jim Rundquist

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Kielbaso called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm

2. Welcome new member, Robert Rusch

Members welcomed new member Robert Rusch. Member Rusch stated he is interested in land preservation, resource development, and is glad to support these efforts.

Member Hatfield indicated he needed to leave for a meeting at 7:30 pm.

3. Approve Agenda

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, VICE CHAIR HELMBRECHT SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. Voice vote. Motion passed.

4. Public Remarks

Vice Chair Helmbrecht asked the Board Members to introduce themselves to new Board Member Rusch.

5. Approve Minutes for April 11, 2012

Page 2, item #7, first sentence, change “conservations” to “conversations”.

VICE CHAIR HELMBRECHT MOVED, MEMBER STEPHENS SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

6. Communications

- Land Preservation Advisory Board Member List – a copy was distributed to the members and they were asked to update their information.
- June 7, 2012 Leslie Kuhn, Mid-Michigan Stewardship Initiative
- June 26, 2012, Michael Thomas, Southwest Meridian Upland, brush fire – Discussion: Member Kielbaso reported he found an area smoldering when he walked the site and reported it; members asked if the Fire Chief had a cause and if a report was available(it was mentioned that it was from a party in the area but there has been no cause listed); staff was asked to furnish restoration plan for the site (possible reseeding, clearing, etc.) as a future agenda item.
- July 23, 2012, Tom Valli, Southwest Meridian Upland, sewage sludge
- The Call Note (Capital Area Audubon Society newsletter), June 2012, Henslow's Sparrows at Davis/Foster Preserve

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, VICE CHAIR HELMBRECHT SECONDED, TO ACCEPT AND PLACE THE ITEMS OF COMMUNICATION ON FILE. Voice vote. Motion passed.

7. Presentations

- a. Update on Lake Lansing North Park stewardship, deer exclosures, deer resistant garden: Leslie Kuhn, Mid-Michigan Stewardship Initiative summarized the Mid-Michigan Stewardship Initiative mid-2011 to mid-2012 accomplishments (report contained in the minute book). It was noted eradication of the Japanese Knotweed will be a three year process; the new signage explaining about the different projects has been very well received; they have started monitoring the exclosures and they believe the natural light will have an impact on their final report. Nicholas Sanchez reported on the autumn olive control project and his work with the volunteers on the 120 acre site. Pat Witte gave a history on the development of the new signage program which lists their step by step progress and their future hope for the area. Leslie Kuhn reported on the Lake Lansing North Deer Resistant Native Plant Rain Garden project she is working on with volunteers including Member Margo Smith. A new native plant rain garden project will be developed at Lake Lansing and Shaw. Members discussed the rain garden project and asked staff to schedule a trip out to Lake Lansing North to see the exclosures and progress of this project.

With the potential absence of Member Hatfield from the meeting, the following item was being taken out of order:

8. New Business

- a. Stewardship Network – Financial Support – Land Management Coordinator Greenway indicated in the past the Land Preservation Advisory Board has contributed approximately \$5,000 to the Network since 2009 which was sent to the central office in Ann Arbor, but little of those funds has been spent locally. Ms. Kuhn has suggested the Land Preservation Advisory Board approve the expenditure of up to \$5,000 but \$3,500 of those funds be allocated to the Mid-Michigan Cluster of the Stewardship Network where it can be spent locally.

BOARD MEMBER SMITH MOVED THAT THE LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE OF UP TO \$5,000 OF MAINTENANCE FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUPPORTING THE STEWARDSHIP NETWORK. \$3,500 OF THE TOTAL SHOULD BE ALLOCATED TO THE MID-MICHIGAN CLUSTER OF THE STEWARDSHIP NETWORK. Supported by Vice Chair Helmbrecht, with the friendly amendment of “in 2012”. Friendly amendment was accepted by Board Member Smith.

Discussion: when asked how the funds would be spent locally, Pat Witte reported through the Friends of the Ingham County Parks, Nick Sanchez is a  $\frac{3}{4}$  staff member and this year, the other  $\frac{1}{4}$  of his time has been supported by the Mid-Michigan Cluster. With this contribution to the Cluster, a portion of the funds would continue Nick’s employment in 2012 and the remainder to future projects; concern was raised if the Stewardship Network in Ann Arbor did not receive the entire contribution, would there be problems for the Cluster? (Ms. Kuhn did not believe there would be a problem).

Roll Call:

AYES: Members Helmbrecht, Stephens, Hatfield, Mayes, Smith,  
Rusch, Kielbaso  
NAYS: None

Motion passed.

9. Old Business

- b. Soderman letter – Lake Lansing South (Potter)

Suzan Soderman reported after her last visit before the Board, she reviewed the Ordinance and learned more about the land preservation program. She is adjusting her proposal and asking permission to construct beehives, bird nesting boxes for bluebirds and owls, and planting native plants including wild rice and wild thistle in the area. Discussion: concern about exposing bees on public property; liability

issues cost of hives and who would fund the purchase (Ms. Soderman indicated she would like permission to investigate); the need to remove trash on the site (believed to be dumped by the Road Commission and the existing neighbor); who does the fence belong to on the west side of the property.

When asked if Ms. Soderman would be interested in assisting with a cleaning and new planting at the entrance into the site off Haslett Road, Ms. Soderman indicated yes.

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER MAYES SECONDED, TO AUTHORIZE STAFF TO WORK WITH SUZAN SODERMAN ON THE COST ESTIMATE AND DEVELOPMENT FOR A PLAN TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD. Voice vote. Motion passed.

8. New Business

- b. 2012 Deer Management Program  
Land Management Coordinator Greenway summarized the proposed 2012 Deer Management Program which strives to make a larger impact by increasing the number of properties, hunters, and hunting hours (report contained in the minute book). Discussion: to ask deer hunters to be more sensitive of the neighbors when hanging deer; was 2011 season a success (yes and it was safe); increase of hours to hunt on weekend; asked if hunters could offer a walking survey of deer in the areas (it was indicated that in the past, postal carriers offered a walking survey).

BOARD MEMBER SMITH MOVED, BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS SECONDED, THAT THE MERIDIAN LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD, RECOGNIZING THAT CONTROLLED HUNTING IN TOWNSHIP-OWNED PROPERTIES MAY HELP CONTROL THE OVERPOPULATION OF WHITE-TAILED DEER, AUTHORIZE STAFF TO CONDUCT MANAGED HUNTS DURING THE REGULAR BOW AND FIREARM SEASONS AND THE EARLY ANTERLESS SEASON FOR THE FOLLOWING LAND PRESERVE PROPERTIES:

1. Forest Grove, "M-78 White"	Land Preserve	25 acres
2. Meridian Central Wetland, "Winter/Dunham/Boroughs"	Land Preserve	25 acres
3. Davis/Foster Preserve	Land Preserve	109 acres
4. Tihart/Cornell Roads, "Spalding"	Land Preserve	21 acres
5. Foster/Crouse	Land Preserve	18 acres
6. Red Cedar River East, "Howe"	Land Preserve	25 acres
7. Sower Woods	Land Preserve	18 acres
8. Southwest Meridian Uplands, "Sturk"	Land Preserve	60 acres

9. Northridge "Whitehills"	Land Preserve	25 acres
10. Central Meridian Uplands, "Rysberg"	Land Preserve	60 acres
11. Hubbel	Land Preserve	58 acres
12. Northwest Land Preserve	Land Preserve	125 acres

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS SECONDED AND OFFERED THE FRIENDLY AMENDMENT TO CHANGE "THE REGULAR BOW AND FIREARM SEASONS" TO LISTING THE DATES OF THE DEER HUNTING SEASON OF SEPTEMBER 22 TO DECEMBER 31, 2012" TO FOLLOW THE WORDING USED BY THE PARK COMMISSION. Board Member Smith accepted the friendly amendment.

Voice vote. Motion passed.

7. Land Management Coordinator Report
  - a. Davis/Foster Land Preserve Sign - Land Management Coordinator Greenway distributed a picture of the Foster family in front of the Davis/Foster Land Preservation Sign during their recent 116 year family reunion.
  - b. Meridian Central Wetland, pathway along eastern property
  - c. Red Cedar Glen Land Preserve – Ember Oaks Drainage District Update
  - d. Red Cedar River East, "Wangler" acquisition
  - e. Financial statement – July 31, 2012
  
9. Old Business (yellow)
  - a. Invasive Species Assessment Reports – approval of drafts  

This item was tabled to the next meeting
  
10. Other (pink)

None
  
11. Public Comment  

None
  
12. Closed Session  
BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER SMITH SECONDED TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS LAND ACQUISITION.

Roll Call:

AYES:Members Helmbrecht, Stephens, Mayes, Smith, Rusch, Kielbaso

NAYS: None

The members entered into closed session at 8:15 pm.

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER MAYES  
SECONDED TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION.

Roll Call:

AYES: Members Helmbrecht, Stephens, Mays, Smith, Rusch, Kielbaso

NAYS: None

The members entered into closed session at 9:33 pm.

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER RUSCH  
SECONDED, TO DIRECT STAFF TAKE SUCH ACTION AS DISCUSSED IN  
CLOSED SESSION.

Roll Call:

AYES: Members Helmbrecht, Stephens, Mayes, Smith, Rusch, Kielbaso

NAYS: None

The motion passed.

Land Management Coordinator asked the members if they would like to have the  
September meeting at 6 pm. Members indicated yes.

### 13. Adjournment

Hearing no objections, Chair Kielbaso adjourned the meeting at 9:38 pm.