

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Chair Gregory and Commissioners Jackson, Macklem, Kielbaso, McConnell, Kuhn, and Scherbarth (6:45 pm).

ABSENT: None

STAFF

PRESENT: Richard F. Brown, Jr., AICP, Associate Planner

OTHERS

PRESENT: None

1. **CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Gregory called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

Motion by Commissioner Jackson to approve the agenda as submitted. Supported by Commissioner Macklem. Approved 6-0.

3. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 17, 2008, WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:**

Motion by Commissioner McConnell to approve the minutes for the December 17, 2008, work session and regular meeting; supported by Commissioner Macklem. Approved 6-0.

4. **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair Gregory noted she is stepping down as Chair and does not wish to be re-elected. Chair Gregory summarized the discussion at the Township Board meeting attended by all the commissions, as well as the meetings held with the Director of Planning and Township Manager such as website development, the relationship with planning, and use of the MNFI database.

5. **COMMUNICATIONS/STAFF REPORT**

Associate Planner Brown summarized the following:

- Four Environmental Stewardship Award nominations received to date.
- Commissioners Gregory and Jackson were re-appointed.
- Article in the Towne Courier about the Environmental Stewardship Award nominations.
- Guest speaker in February about wetlands.

6. ELECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR FOR 2009

General discussion about the roles and responsibilities of both positions.
Commissioner Scherbarth nominated Commissioner Kuhn to be Chair for 2009; Seconded by Commissioner Jackson. Commissioner Kuhn respectfully declined.

Commissioner Macklem nominated Commissioner Jackson to be Chair for 2009; Seconded by Commissioner Scherbarth. No other nominations were received.
Approved 7-0.

Commissioner Jackson nominated Commissioner McConnell to be Vice-Chair for 2009; Seconded by Commissioner Scherbarth. No other nominations were received.
Approved 7-0.

7. APPOINTMENT/RE-APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND LIASIONS

Discussion about the committee structure and titles. Each committee to determine its name. Chair Jackson an ex.-officio member of all committees. The tentative committee membership for 2009 includes:

Water Resources & Wetlands: Commissioners Kuhn; Kielbaso; and Gregory

Energy Awareness & Transportation (name to be determined): Commissioners Macklem; Scherbarth; and McConnell.

Environmental Stewardship Awards: Commissioner Kielbaso with help from Associate Planner Brown.

8. DISCUSSION OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION GOALS AND OJECTIVES FOR 2009

After discussion, the following goal was set for 2009:

“Improve the quality of life in Meridian Township by advising the Township Board, officials and staff on key environmental issues, and create a citizenry informed about these issues.”

9. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

10. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Committee/Liaison Reports

1. Natural Resources & Energy Awareness: No report.

2. Water Features & Wetlands: The Committee will be sending a follow-up report on the Wetland Use Permit #09-08-01.
3. Environmental Stewardship Awards: No report.
4. Environmental Education: Commissioner Macklem summarized the plan to hold brief public service informational announcements at each meeting. Associate Planner Brown will start off in February. Commissioner Macklem will do one on composting.

B. Study Groups/Liaisons

Land Preservation: No report.

Parks: No report.

11. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Discussion on the process of reviewing projects.

12. **PUBLIC REMARKS**

None

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Commissioner Macklem to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Supported by Vice Chair McConnell. Approved 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.