

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES  
Meridian Municipal Building – Town Hall Room  
March 1, 2017 - APPROVED**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**PRESENT:** Chair Bill McConnell, Commissioners John Sarver, Vice-Chair Ned Jackson, Jim Kielbaso, Susan Masten, Kirk Lapham, and Marina Heos

**ABSENT:** Ben Holland

**STAFF:** Assistant Planner Jennifer Quinlivan

**OTHERS:** NONE

**1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair McConnell called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**2. GREEN THEMES PRESENTATION:**

Garry Rowe presented the Water Sampling Study. The recent water sampling study examined local wells and ground water. The study took place in six townships and three municipalities, including Meridian Township, East Lansing, Michigan State University and the City of Lansing. Results of the study, in general, showed a decrease in levels of many chemical elements and heavy metals with an increase in levels of sodium chloride and bacteria. The results are thought to be linked to the shallow bedrock and shale profiles and an increased use of sodium chloride for road maintenance. Based on the study, four recommendations were proposed;

- Promote the routine assessment and testing of existing wells.
- A review of road salting policies.
- A review of water softener testing as a contributing factor to the increase in sodium chloride levels.
- Increase water sample studies to one every ten years.

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

APPROVED AS CIRCULATED

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM February 1, 2017 MEETING**

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER KIELBASO TO APPROVE MINUTES. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER JACKSON. MOTION APPROVED 7-0.

**5. PUBLIC REMARKS**

NONE

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**6. NEW BUSINESS**

NONE

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

NONE

**8. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Chair McConnell reported on a number of items at the meeting.

- a. Introduction of newly appointed Commissioner Kirk Lapham to the Environmental Commission.
- b. Replacement of the power polls and utility maintenance in wetlands behind of the Township municipal building. Chair McConnell consulted the Department of Public Works and Engineering on the maintenance and was assured that all State and local regulations were met in the maintenance of the utility corridor.
- c. The progress of the newly formed Township Transportation Commission and Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.
- d. The status of the Economic Development Corporation regarding the issue of blight within the Township.
- e. The status of the Township Master Plan. Chair McConnell stated the Township Board had voted to send the Master Plan out for the required 60-day review.

Chair McConnell asked staff to report on the requirements to remove the review of Township wetland use permits as a duty of the Environmental Commission.

**9. STAFF REPORT**

Staff reported in order to remove the review of Township wetland use permits from the duties of the Environmental Commission a formal request must be made to the Township Board. The Township Board would review the request and make a decision. The Ordinances associated with wetland use permits would also require review, revision, and a decision by the Township Board.

**10. COMMISSIONER SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Planning:** Chair McConnell reported on the Planning Commission's review of the rezoning of the Walnut Hills Golf Course and a Haslett gas station commercial planned unit development project

**Land Preservation:** Commissioner Kielbaso reported on the review of a possible site for inclusion into the Township's Land Preservation Program.

**Energy Team:** Commissioner Sarver reported on the upcoming ribbon cutting for the Haslett Community Church solar park on April 23, 2017. Michigan Energy Options would be presenting on upcoming energy legislation on March 16, 2017.

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**Student Engagement:** NONE

**Parks:** Commissioner Jackson reported the link to Meridian Live was not functioning. Commissioner Jackson also reported the Park and Recreation Master Plan was approved.

**Transportation:** NONE

**11. PUBLIC REMARKS**

- a. Planning Commissioner Premoe reported to the Commission the status of the Walnut Hills Golf Course rezoning request and the issue of density on the associated zoning district.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m. without objection.