

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD**

MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2013
6 PM – MERIDIAN SERVICE CENTER

Members Present: Julie Brixie, Frank Hatfield, 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: Roger Wallace, Nick Sanchez, Paul George

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Kielbaso called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

2. Approve Agenda

BOARD MEMBER BRIXE MOVED, BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

3. Public Remarks

Roger Wallace, Okemos, Michigan, stated he was interested in serving on the Land Preservation Advisory Board and wanted to become more familiar with its activities.

4. Approve Minutes for January 9, 2013

BOARD MEMBER HATFIELD MOVED, BOARD MEMBER BRIXE SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 9, 2013 MEETING MINUTES

The following amendments were offered:

- Page 3, under Discussion, 9th circle bullet, 2nd square bullet, 3rd line, change “be” to “we”
- Page 3, under Discussion, 9th circle bullet, 3rd square bullet, change the sentence to read: “What are the big maintenance issues; suggested talking with Nature Conservancy about restoration of the ash trees; are there any

- potential tree replacement programs; native plantings; what are the encroachment issues; talk with Environmental Commission about how bad dumping leaves is (yard waste dumping issue), invasive species removal and control and need to develop educational materials to educate public about these issues (could work with local schools, Sabrina Jenkins & HOM-TV staff).”
- Page 3, under Discussion, 9th circle bullet, 5th square bullet, change the sentence to read: “Establish neighborhood support groups like we have in Red Cedar Glen and Northwest Preserve areas.”
 - Under Item #9, Land Management Coordinator report, insert “Coordinator” in front of the Coordinator Greenway’s name
 - Under Item #10, Notification of Board Packets, correct spelling of Chair Kielbaso’s name
 - Under Item #11, Closed Session, correct spelling of Board Member Rusch’s name, and in the second motion, change the wording from” return to Closed Session” to “return to Open Session”.

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER SMITH SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 9, 2013 MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

5. Communications

Coordinator Greenway reported an updated Land Preservation Advisory Board Membership list was included but the end dates for Board Member Hatfield needs to be confirmed with the Clerk’s Office and with the re-appointment of Chair Kielbaso, the term limit date will be revised. If there are any other changes, please email and an updated list will be available at the next meeting.

6. Presentations

- a. None

7. New Business

- a. Election of Chair & Vice Chair

Chair Kielbaso opened the floor for nominations for **Chair**.

BOARD MEMBER HATFIELD MOVED, TO NOMINATE JAMES KIELBASO AS CHAIR. BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS SECONDED.

Board Member Kielbaso accepted the nomination.

BOARD MEMBER SMITH MOVED, BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS SECONDED, TO CLOSE THE FLOOR TO NOMINATIONS.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Frank Hatfield, Jon Mayes, Robert Rusch, Mark Stephens, Julie Brixie, Margo Smith, James Kielbaso
NAYS: None

Motion passed.

Chair Kielbaso opened the floor for nomination for **Vice Chair**.

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, TO NOMINATE FRANK HATFIELD AS VICE CHAIR. BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE SECONDED.

Frank Hatfield accepted the nomination.

BOARD MEMBER SMITH MOVED, BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS SECONDED, TO CLOSE THE FLOOR TO NOMINATIONS.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Jon Mayes, Robert Rusch, Mark Stephens, Julie Brixie, Margo Smith, James Kielbaso, Frank Hatfield
NAYS: None

The motion passed.

b. Northwest Preserve Invasive Species Management

Nick Sanchez distributed material and summarized the activities on the Northwest Preserve property relative to the invasive woody shrub, buckthorn. The presentation including updates, issues, potential solutions, goals, mechanical removal, what will mowing/mulching do, what about a burn, opportunities and what's next (complete report in the minute file).

Discussion:

- Process to eradicate common buckthorn and how slow it is
- Someone is damaging valuable trees in the area
- Methods to reclaim the area and the planting of new trees
- Volunteer commitment in the area
- MSU student is willing to identify trees in area wish to save

- Partnership with Ingham County or MDOT on the purchase/use of equipment needed to assist with the restoration effort
- Use of chemicals as a follow-up measure
- Timeframe for this project
- Possible use of deer fencing and/or tube fencing
- Video-taping the process
- Lake Lansing North brush piles – can they be burned (too big)
- What about chipping (it is about a 1 ½ acre site)
- What is negative to leaving the pile as is (not harmful, but not good to look at, could be used as an animal habitat, would decay in approximately 15 years)
- When asked if the brush piles are in the way of future plantings (no)
- Suggest educational signage for the brush piles
- Nick is researching approximate costs for restoration

c. Adopt-A-Preserve program for LPAB members

Coordinator Greenway reported the Adopt-a-Preserve Program is being proposed as a method to assist the Board Members in becoming familiar with the preserves, meeting the neighbors of the Land Preserves and recruiting new citizen stewards. She asked the Board Members to review the information and the list of assigned preserves. This item will be on the next agenda for action.

BOARD MEMBER HATFIELD MOVED, BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS SECONDED, TO AMEND THE MEETING AGENDA TO ADDRESS THE ITEM IN MINUTES TO ADDRESS INACTIVE MEMBERS.

Roll Call:

AYES: Jon Mayes, Robert Rusch, Mark Stephens, Julie Brixie, Margo Smith, Jim Kielbaso, Frank Hatfield

NAYS: None

The motion passed.

8. Old Business

a. Status of Inactive Members

Board Member Hatfield asked for an update on this question. Coordinator Greenway reported that she spoke with Township Manager Richards regarding the absence of Board Member Webster. Coordinator Greenway reported she reviewed the Ordinance and there is no statement to address continued absence of members from board meetings. Board Members discussed: the importance of participating at the meetings; how important a board member's expertise is when addressing issues and input on

current projects such as land acquisition and budget items. Board Member Brixie volunteered to speak with Board Member Webster about this issue.

9. Land Management Coordinator Report

a. Proposed 2013 Management Activities and Opinion of Cost

Coordinator Greenway summarized the proposed 2013 Management Activities and Opinion of Cost spreadsheet, Land Preservation Budget Summary End of Year 2012 and Preliminary Financial Statements contained in the meeting packet. This proposed Management Activities and Opinion of Cost spreadsheet also includes projected costs through 2019. Acquisition funds will be used for land preservation signs; property boundary marker posts and installation; boundary surveys; and stewardship plan/invasive species assessments. Management funds will be used for interpretive signage; rules signage; invasive species management; site restoration; primitive trail maintenance, stewardship groups and wages and benefits. She has prioritized projects that have been discussed by the Board but is still working on the long-term maintenance goals for the sites. Coordinator Greenway reported input will be needed on what is expected from each site (restores nature back to a pre-development state or develops such items as prairies); should the stewardship and management plans be spread out over the years so that there is time to appropriately act upon the recommendations. Discussion: why do these stewardship plans cost so much (depends on how extensive a plan is requested); do we have to use Township's environmental consultant. Staff will continue to work on this document for the next meeting.

b. Southwest Meridian Uplands Restoration Project Update

Board Members reviewed the project update, talk to Vern Stephens about any potential grant assistance for the project, and asked to have Consultant Stephens give a presentation on this project at a future meeting.

c. Summary of restoration expenses for Lake Lansing North Park and Northwest Land Preserve

Coordinator Greenway reported this document summarizes the expenses to date for this project.

d. Stewardship Network Conference, 2013 – links to presentations

Coordinator Greenway reported to share this information with the Board Members.

e. Mid-Michigan Stewardship meeting update

Coordinator Greenway reported this communication outlines the Mid-Michigan Stewardship's future meetings and activities.

f. Mid-Michigan Stewardship Initiative/Ingham County Parks 2012 Accomplishments

Coordinator Greenway reported this communication outlines their accomplishments including activities in Lake Lansing North.

10. Other (pink)

- a. Board Member Mayes asked to include the demolition of the structures on the Davis/Foster Preserve as a discussion item on the next meeting agenda. He asked if staff would verify the demolition costs.

11. Public Comment

Roger Wallace stated the Land Preservation Advisory Board has discussed a lot of interesting items at this meeting and agrees with the direction the Board is moving in and that a long-term budget needs to be produced.

12. Closed Session

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE SECONDED, TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS LAND ACQUISITION ISSUES.

AYES: Frank Hatfield, Jon Mayes, Robert Rusch, Mark Stephens, Julie Brixie, Margo Smith, James Kielbaso

NAYS: None

The Board moved into closed session at 7:50 pm.

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

AYES: Frank Hatfield, Jon Mayes, Robert Rusch, Mark Stephens, Julie Brixie, Margo Smith, James Kielbaso

NAYS: None

The Board returned to open session at 9:15 pm.

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

AYES: Frank Hatfield, Jon Mayes, Robert Rusch, Mark Stephens, Julie Brixie,
Margo Smith, James Kielbaso

NAYS: None

Motion passed.

13. Adjournment

Hearing no objection, Chair Kielbaso adjourned the meeting at 9:18 pm.