

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
AGENDA
Wednesday, September 2, 2015**

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

Work Session

1. Call the work session to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. Approval of the work session agenda
3. Review of the minutes of the July 1, 2015 work session/regular meeting
4. Other business
5. Public remarks
6. Adjournment

Regular Meeting

1. Call the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Approval of the regular meeting agenda
3. Approval of the minutes of the July 1, 2015, work session/regular meeting
4. Public remarks
5. Green Themes Presentation by Commissioner Lise Schools on *"Using Interpretation as a Management Tool"*
6. Chair's Report
7. Communications/staff report
 - a. 2015 ITC Tree Grant project status
8. Other Business
 - a. Resolution of appreciation for Commissioner Scherbarth
9. Study groups/liaison reports
 - a. Land Preservation: Jim Kielbaso
 - b. Energy Team: John Sarver
 - c. Parks: Richard Searl
 - d. Assigning a leader for Natural Features
10. Public remarks
11. Adjournment

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
Meridian Municipal Building – Upstairs Conference Room
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198
July 1, 2015 - Draft

WORK SESSION

PRESENT: Chair McConnell and Commissioners Kielbaso, Jackson, Sarver, Scherbarth, Schools, and Searl

ABSENT: None

STAFF

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

OTHERS

PRESENT: John Scott-Craig and Eckhart Dersch

1. **CALL WORK SESSION TO ORDER**

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

2. **APPROVAL OF THE WORK SESSION AGENDA**

Agenda approved without objection.

3. **REVIEW OF THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 6, 2015 WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING**

No changes noted.

4. **DISCUSSION ON THE MASTER PLAN AND GREENSPACE PLAN WITH ECKHART DERSCH**

Chair McConnell summarized the reasons for inviting Professor Dersch and Chair Scott-Craig for a discussion on the Master Plan and Greenspace Plan following the breakout sessions held recently.

Professor Dersch noted the need for an in-depth inventory of natural features in the Township – not just on public lands. This would be a long-term and incremental approach that would give the community a better idea of what exactly we have. Otherwise, we may lose the things we didn't even know we had in the first place. Having this data readily available would also help quicken response times in the future.

It could involve trained citizen scientists, commissioners, and/or compiling the information we already have in casefiles.

Commissioner Schools noted some communities have utilized BioBlitz programs the conduct a 24 hour study of sites using a group of pre-trained volunteers. There are also sources available like e-Birds that provide localized data.

5. **PUBLIC REMARKS**

None

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Work Session was adjourned without objection by Chair McConnell at 7:00 p.m.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
Meridian Municipal Building – Upstairs Conference Room
July 1, 2015 - Draft**

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Chair McConnell and Commissioners Searl, Jackson, Schools, Scherbarth, Sarver, and Kielbaso

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Richard F. Brown, Jr., AICP, CBSP Associate Planner

OTHERS: John Scott-Craig and Eckhart Dersch

1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER

Chair McConnell called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Approved by consent without objection.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MAY 6, 2015 WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Approved by consent without objection.

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

None

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

No report.

6. COMMUNICATIONS/STAFF REPORT

Associate Planner Brown summarized the following:

- Success of the Township's Smart Commute team
- Central Park Planning Sessions on July 15th

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Everyone expressed their well wishes and thanks to Commissioner Scherbarth who will be moving to Massachusetts in August.

8. **STUDY GROUPS/LIAISON REPORTS**

- a. **Land Preservation:** Commissioner Kielbaso noted they walked the Rysberg Preserve and next week will be walking the Sturk property.
- b. **Energy Team:** Commissioner Sarver noted moderate success at the Michigan Renewable Energy Fair – 1,200 attendees and 30 exhibitors.
- c. **Parks:** Commissioner Searl noted what took place at the June 9th Park Commission meeting including discussions on chronic wasting disease, use of social media, statues of expiring millages, and the July 15th planning sessions for Central Park.
- d. **Natural Features:** Chair McConnell would like to establish a Natural Features Study Group to address the topics brought up this evening. He asked for volunteers. He, along with the other Commissioners also asked staff to conduct initial research into what the Township has available already and other known sources of data pertinent to natural features in Meridian Township. An inventory of the number of parcels, number of wetland use permits, number of special use permits, number of rezonings, and number of land preservation studies would be appreciated by the next meeting.

9. **PUBLIC REMARKS**

None

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

The Regular Meeting was adjourned by Chair McConnell without objections at 8:10 p.m.

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

At a regular meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held on the 2nd day of September 2015, at 7:00 p.m., local time.

PRESENT: _____

ABSENT: _____

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner _____ and supported by Commissioner _____.

WHEREAS, John Scherbarth served as an active member of the Environmental Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian for more than seven years, from May 2008 through July 2015; and

WHEREAS, John Scherbarth served Meridian Township as Vice-Chair of the Environmental Commission in the second half of 2014; and

WHEREAS, John Scherbarth fully participated in site visits, public forums and meetings, and on subcommittees and study groups of the Environmental Commission; and

WHEREAS, John Scherbarth devoted much of his personal time and energy educating the general public, other commissioners, and staff on important legal and environmental issues; and

WHEREAS, John Scherbarth's service on the Environmental Commission has been greatly beneficial to the Charter Township of Meridian, its residents, and its natural environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN HEREBY extends its very best wishes to John Scherbarth in his future endeavors in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and expresses its profound gratitude for his service to the community.

ADOPTED: YEAS: _____

NAYS: None

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)ss
COUNTY OF INGHAM)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Chairperson of the Environmental Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Environmental Commission on the 2nd day of September, 2015.

William McConnell, Chairperson
Environmental Commission