



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
CENTRAL FIRE STATION, 5000 OKEMOS RD. OKEMOS
WEDNESDAY, MAY 1 2019 7:00 PM

PRESENT: Vice Chair, Ned Jackson; Commissioner, Linda Burghardt; and Commissioner Kirk Lapham; Commissioner
STAFF: LeRoy Harvey, Environmental Programs Coordinator; Roy Kellerman, Studio Production Manager
CITIZENS: Bernie Campanella, Green Team; David Premoe, Planning Commission; Tom Frazier, Legislative Liaison Michigan Townships Association,

GREEN THEME PRESENTATION: Green Communities Program, Tom Frazier. Mr. Frazier discussed the Green Communities Network, the Green Communities Challenge, and some current legislation related to renewable energy (property tax exemption) and land preservation (allowing solar on PA 116 lands and renewal of land preservation/ag preservation fund). Frazier also describes some ways that the Township could move from a Silver to a Gold Level Award in Green Communities Awards later in 2019. These will be presented at the Michigan Sustainability Conference in Lansing in November. More on that here: https://www.michigan.gov/egle/0,9429,7-135-3308_3333-393527--,00.html

Frazier had a few suggestions that could help Meridian achieve the Gold Level Certification

- Implement a PACE Program (property assessed clean energy)
- Track energy and water use for all township buildings
- Adopt a community forestry plan/urban tree canopy goal
- Implement a community-wide composting program
- Replace street lights with LEDs,
- Adopt an anti-idling policy for community fleet or community-wide
- Adopt a plan, policy, or program for energy efficiency or renewable energy in low income housing
- Achieve green building certification for a government building
(see powerpoint at <http://bit.ly/greenthem>)

If people would like to receive Green Communities News, visit <http://migreencommunities.com/blog>.
View this Green Theme Presentation at: https://youtu.be/C0qy_0z3nig

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Burghardt moved to approve the agenda. Lapham seconded. Motion approved.

PUBLIC REMARKS: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Quorum not available.

NEW BUSINESS:

Apartment Recycling Update: Harvey and Campanella shared a brief historical summary of apartment recycling successes and challenges. Lynn Page had attended the last Environmental Commission

meeting and Chair McConnell suggested an overview of the current situation. In summary, there is a small but growing number of apartment complexes that offer recycling for residents (approximately a half dozen. See the attached Apartment Recycling Update. In addition, residents and commissioners are invited to share their ideas with the Meridian Green Team (LeRoy or Bernie – recycle@meridian.mi.us)

OLD BUSINESS:

Wetland Banking Discussion: Our July meeting overlaps with the Land Preservation Board. Lapham will discuss this possibility with them when they meet next week.

Environmental Stewardship Awards: Jackson suggests that we renew our promotion of the Environmental Stewardship Awards and plan on awarding them in Spring of 2020 (April E.C. meeting or around Earth Day). Jackson encourages to begin thinking about potential recipients.

CHAIR'S REPORT: None

STAFF REPORT: Harvey provided a quick recap of the Saturday Recycling Event. More pictures and statistics can be found in the May [Green Gazette](#).

COMMISSION/LIAISON/WORKGROUP REPORTS:

- Planning: Premoe reports that lots of development plans are being considered. There is a meeting on the Downtown Okemos Development at the Playmaker Conference Center. They are looking for business input. Pollution abatement will be occurring this summer. The large hole will be used to create a parking structure. The Board has cut back on the number of Marijuana Dispensaries, as recommended by the Commission.
- Land Preservation: Lapham reported a Tree-Planting Day last weekend. There are a couple new members on the Board. They are also considering a couple of properties.
- Energy: Harvey reported that the Energy Team has been exploring power purchase agreements for solar, June Solar Open Houses, and a meeting with David Lee, Assessor, about the Solar Property Tax legislation.
- Brownfield Redevelopment Authority: Jackson has not been able to attend.
- Green Team: Has been mainly focused on the Recycling Event.
- Transportation: None

PUBLIC REMARKS: None

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:30pm

Thank you HOMTV for filming this meeting. Past and future meetings will be available at http://www.homtv.net/index_homtv.asp?view=programming&page=meetings&id=environmental-commission

Apartment Recycling Update

Where we are in Meridian Township:

Currently, there are about 8 multifamily housing developments with recycling. There are also several condominiums that curbside recycling. These include:

- Grange Acres
- Central Park Apartments
- Marsh Pointe
- Nemoke Trail
- Hanna Lofts

2018: Survey of Owners and Managers: In 2018 we distributed a survey to approximately 60 apartment owners and managers. We received 5 responses.

2019 Educational Survey at Grange Acres Early 2019

Levels of involvement:

Basic: Low- or no-cost, builds relationship

Educational - Focus on safety, waste reduction, litter, sewer clogs (FOG), energy, \$ savings, etc.

Medium: hold an event – special recycling day(s); Survey residents; form committee/green team

High: More Cost/Involvement

Recycling Program and bins; majority of the elements listed above, budget, pilot program, signage

Studies of successful apartment recycling programs in the cities of Minneapolis, Alameda, Boulder, Chicago, Fort Collins, and Fresno revealed these common elements:

- On-going education and outreach
- Strong economic incentives to increase motivation
- Support from specific properties and management
- Clear and effective container signage
- Adequate indoor and outdoor recyclables storage
- On-site volunteers/staff engaged in recycling success

Next Steps:

- Promote what's working
- Dual Stream/drop off station
- Support those who want to start – mini-grants
- Learn more about what other communities are doing