



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday October 8, 2025 6:00 pm
Township Service Center
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Okemos MI

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. PUBLIC COMMENT
3. APPROVE AGENDA
 - A. October 8, 2025
4. APPROVE MINUTES
 - A. August 13, 2025
 - A. Closed Session Minutes
 - B. September 10, 2025
5. COMMUNICATIONS
6. DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - A. Prescribed Burn Program Update
 - I. Legg Park
 - B. Parks and Recreation Department 2026 Survey Input

(BEGIN CLOSED SESSION)

 - C. Parcels for Acquisition Consideration
 - I. Parcel B (Memo 6.B.I)

(END CLOSED SESSION)
7. REPORTS
 - A. STAFF REPORT: Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator
 - I. MCC October Stewardship Calendar
 - II. Wetland Education Signage
 - B. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT: Commissioner Yu Man Lee
 - C. PARK COMMISSION REPORT: Commissioner Mark Stephens
8. PUBLIC COMMENT
9. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS
10. ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - A. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 at 6 pm at The Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Okemos, Michigan 48864.
11. ADJOURNMENT

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Meridian Township Land Preservation Advisory Board by contacting: Director Courtney Wisinski, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 or 517.853.4600 - Ten Day Notice is Required.

Meeting Location: 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840

Providing a safe and welcoming, sustainable prime community.





CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Township Service Center
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court | Haslett, MI
Wednesday, September 10, 2025, 6 PM

PRESENT: Board Members: Jamie Hiller, Steve Thomas, Kathy Fay, Kris Parnell, Yu Man Lee (Environmental Commission), Mark Stephens (Park Commission), Angela Demas (Township Board).
ABSENT: None.
STAFF: Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Hiller called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

a. None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

a. September 10, 2025

Commissioner Stephens moved to approve the September 10, 2025 Agenda to place on file. Commissioner Lee seconded.

Voice vote: Unanimous

4. APPROVE MINUTES

a. June 11, 2025

Commissioner Stephens moved to do a friendly amendment to approve the closed session minutes from the June 11, 2025 minutes to place on file. Board member Fay seconded.

Voice vote: Unanimous

b. August 13, 2025

Chair Hiller moved to approve the open session minutes from the August 13, 2025 minutes to place on file. Board member Parnell seconded.

Voice vote: Unanimous

5. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Beth Bechtel, letter for public comment.

Commissioner Stephens moved to place communications on file. Board member Parnell seconded.
Voice Vote: Unanimous.

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6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Prescribed Burn Program

i. Legg Park

1. Starting discussion to plan for the 2026 prescribed burn program.
2. Funds could come from both Land Preservation and Parks and Recreation as a match for stewardship efforts.
 - a. Invasive and native plants don't know what boundaries are. Collaborative funding could maximize efforts between parks and preserves for the best land management practices.
 - b. Land Preserve Ordinance will need to be honored. Legal will look into the logistics of this.
3. Look into the potential of utilizing Green Grant funds.
4. Prescribed burn discussion will be on for the October Park Commission meeting.
5. Land Preserve funds are utilized for staff across parks and preserves to do stewardship and invasive species management.
6. Focus on the invasive species aspect, managing autumn olive in Legg Park to the benefit of the adjacent Red Cedar Glen Preserve.
7. Presentation to Park Commission on importance of prescribed burn.

b. Cornell-Sweetwood Preserve Naming

- i. Sweet Woods Preserve
- ii. Sweetwood Preserve
- iii. White Oak Preserve
- iv. Cornell Oaks Preserve
- v. Ask Parks Department staff for ideas as well

Vice Chair Stephens makes a motion to move into closed session. Board member Parnell seconded.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Jamie Hiller, Steve Thomas, Mark Stephens, Yu Man Lee, Kathy Fay, Angela Demas, Kris Parnell.

Nays: None.

(BEGIN CLOSED SESSION)

- #### **c. Parcels for Acquisition Consideration**
- i. Parcel B (Memo 6.C.I)
 - ii. Parcel C

Commissioner Stephens moved to end closed session. Vice Chair Thomas seconded.

Roll Call:

Yayes: Jamie Hiller, Steve Thomas, Yu Man Lee, Mark Stephens, Kathy Fay, Angela Demas, Kris Parnell.

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Nays: None.

(END CLOSED SESSION)

Vice Chair Thomas makes a motion to take such action as discussed for Parcel B in closed session. Clerk Demas seconded.

Rolla Call:

Yayes: Jamie Hiller, Steve Thomas, Yu Man Lee, Mark Stephens, Kathy Fay, Angela Demas, Kris Parnell.

Nays: None.

7. REPORTS

- a. STAFF REPORT: Stewardship Coordinator, Emma Campbell
 - i. MCC September Stewardship Calendar
 - ii. Staff Report, memo attached.
- b. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT: Commissioner Yu Man Lee
 - i. Presentation from the Great lake Renewable Energy Council. There is a goal to have 100% renewable energy for all Township buildings by 2030 using a combination of solar and energy credits from Consumer's Energy.
 - ii. Green Grants: Environmental Commission plans to do site visits for Green Grant funded projects as well as Wetland Use permits. Environmental Commission could be involved in site visits for potential acquisitions.
 - iii. September 20th is the fall electronic recycling event.
- c. PARK COMMISSION REPORT: Commissioner Mark Stephens
 - i. Discussed prescribed burn to go on as an item for the October 2025 meeting.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. None.

9. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

- a. Township Board Listening Session on September 30, 2025.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 at 6 pm at the Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Okemos, Michigan 48864.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Thomas moved to adjourn the meeting. Board member Parnell seconded.

Chair Hiller adjourned the meeting at 8:16 pm.

Dear Land Preservation Advisory Board Members,

I have a land parcel suggestion to be included in the land preservation program. I respectfully ask that you consider designating and placing the Meridian Township centrally owned 25 plus acres land parcel located on Central Park Drive between the Okemos Post Office and the Meridian Township Central Fire Station into the Land Preservation program. Preserving this Township centrally owned 25 plus acres land parcel would include protecting significantly mature trees forested land and at least 3 pockets of wetlands that total approximately 1/2 acre or more of wetlands (See Task Force 2 October 22, 2025 Start Timemark 1:07:00 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TRrxxheqelQ>)

Preserving this Township centrally owned 25 plus acres land parcel would provide much needed Green Space in an already densely commercially developed area with the Okemos Post Office to the East, the Shopping Plaza to the South, the Central Fire Station to the West, and the private Townhomes to the North. Preserving and conserving this Township centrally owned 25 plus acres sensitive land parcel would benefit our local environment by protecting wildlife habitats, contributing to cleaner water, and assisting in maintaining the natural ecosystem, which will all enhance and benefit Meridian Township's community quality of life.

Thank you,
Beth Bechtel

Item 7.A.



To: Land Preservation Advisory Board Members
From: Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator
Date: October 8, 2025
Re: October 2025 Stewardship Staff Report

Staff provides a brief summary of land preserve updates:

1. Fall stewardship has begun and includes the following activities:
 - a. Native seed collection
 - b. Native planting (transplants grown from seed collection the year prior)
 - c. Invasive shrub and vine removal and cutting
 - d. Trash pickup
2. Staff is working hard to keep native plantings from this season watered in the dry conditions. Chemical treatment of Japanese knotweed, phragmites, reed canary grass, autumn olive and Asiatic bittersweet is ongoing.
3. On September 27th, seven students from MSU worked at Red Cedar Glen Preserve/Legg Park to remove autumn olive in our restoration area.
 - a. This is part of a partnership since 2021 with Professor John Paskus at the Department of Community Sustainability and his CSUS 493 Course he offers.
4. Meridian Township's archery hunt for deer management began officially on October 1st, 2025 and is approved for 42 Township properties.

STEWARDSHIP

STEWARDSHIP SATURDAYS | 9:30 AM - 12 PM

These workdays occur every other Saturday year round.

- October 4th, Red Cedar Glen Preserve, Invasive Shrub Removal
 - End of Sylvan Glen Drive, Okemos MI (park on the road)
- October 18th, Ted Black Woods, Invasive Shrub Cutting
 - 4714 Van Atta Rd, Okemos MI
- November 1st, Lake Lansing North Preserve, Native Seed Collection
 - 1000 Wild Ginger Trail, Haslett MI

WEEKDAY WARRIORS | 1 PM - 3 PM

Occurs every other Thursday

- October 9th, Central Park South, Trash Pickup
 - 1990 Central Park Dr., Okemos
- October 23rd, Township Service Center, Seed Sorting Party
 - 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett MI

TRAILSIDE ECOLOGY : CREEPY COOL CRITTERS

- Fall is a great time to explore the world of animals that are often misunderstood! Slimy, flighty, fast, jumpy, and crawly creatures can give folks the heeby jeebies, but they serve an important role in our ecosystems. We can't wait to see some creepy cool critters! Costumes welcome. 🎃
 - Legg Park, 3900 Van Atta Rd, OKemos, MI



***ALL EVENTS ARE WEATHER DEPENDENT & MAY BE CANCELLED THE DAY OF**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4 STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY 9:30 - 12 PM
5	6	7	8	9 WEEKDAY WARRIORS 1-3 PM	10	11
12	13	14  CREEPY COOL CRITTERS 5:30 - 7 PM	15	16	17	18 STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY 9:30-12 PM
19	20	21	22	23 WEEKDAY WARRIORS 1-3 PM	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY 9:30-12 PM

PLEASE CONTACT EMMA AT ECAMPBELL@MERIDIAN.MI.US, OR 517.897.3610