



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Township Service Center  
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court | Haslett, MI  
Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 6 PM

PRESENT: Board Members: Steve Thomas, Kathy Fay, Yu Man Lee (Environmental Commission), Mark Stephens (Park Commission), Angela Demas (Township Board).  
ABSENT: Kris Parnell, Jamie Hiller.  
STAFF: Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Thomas called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

a. None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

a. February 11, 2026

**Commissioner Stephens moved to approve the February 11, 2026 Agenda to place on file. Board member Parnell seconded.**

**Voice vote: Unanimous**

4. APPROVE MINUTES

a. January 14, 2026

**Commissioner Stephens moved to approve the minutes from January 14, 2026 to place on file. Commissioner Lee seconded.**

**Voice vote: Unanimous**

5. PRESENTATION

- a. Dan Opssomer, Deputy Township Manager, Pike Crossing Preserve Proposed Pathway
  - i. Phase III pathway construction is starting in 2026.
  - ii. The proposed pathway through Pike Crossing is the only proposed route staff have been able to identify. Several other options have been explored including working with the local railroad company, which was denied.
  - iii. Board member questions:
    1. With the proposed routes, will the pathway avoid wet areas in the preserve? Will the stability of the pathway hold up during flooding events?
      - a. The pathway is navigating around the natural features on site, as well as the invasive species, Japanese knotweed and Tree of Heaven.



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- a. Chair Thomas asked if we can have them fund the contractual management of tree of heaven and Japanese knotweed. Staff will consider this.
3. Board members are not as worried about the ecological value of the preserve, but the habitat fragmentation and precedent set for land preserves is of most concern.
4. The Hagadorn parcel that was donated (22.5 acres), could be a potential area for land preservation. Pike Crossing Preserve could be designated to Township pathways.
5. What about any existing wetlands on Pike Crossing Preserve?
  - a. One still needs to be delineated on the NE corner of the preserve.
6. Are the pike spawning areas going to be effected by this proposed pathway?
  - a. They should not be effected.
7. Board members request to add this proposed pathway as a discussion item for the March Agenda.

**(BEGIN CLOSED SESSION)**

**Board member Fay made a motion to move into Closed Session Discussion. Commissioner Stephens seconded.**

**Roll Call:**

**Yayes: Steve Thomas, Kathy Fay, Yu Man Lee, Mark Stephens, Angela Demas.**

**Nayes: None.**

- b. Parcels for Acquisition Consideration

**Board member Fay made a motion to move out of closed session. Commissioner Stephens seconded.**

**Yayes: Steve Thomas, Kathy Fay, Yu Man Lee, Mark Stephens, Angela Demas.**

**Nayes: None.**

**(END CLOSED SESSION)**

**8. REPORTS**

- a. STAFF REPORT: Stewardship Coordinator, Emma Campbell
  - i. Update on current preservation projects & issues
  - ii. 2026 Land Preservation Program & Stewardship Goals
  - iii. MCC February Stewardship Calendar
- b. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT: Commissioner Yu Man Lee
  - i. No Environmental Commission meeting to report on.
- c. PARK COMMISSION REPORT: Commissioner Mark Stephens
  - i. No Park Commission meeting to report on.
- d. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT: Clerk, Angela Demas

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- i. Joint board and commission meeting on February 10<sup>th</sup> went very well.
- ii. Kris Parnell gave the Land Preservation Advisory Board report at the Joint Board Commission on behalf of the board.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. None.

10. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

- a. Board member Fay wanted clarification on the process of addressing public comments.
- b. Commissioner Stephens inquired into whether or not sewer easements could be identified on Phase I Environmental Site Assessments. Staff will report back.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 6 pm at the Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Okemos, Michigan 48864.

12. ADJOURNMENT

**Commissioner Stephens moved to adjourn the meeting. Board member Fay seconded.**

**Voice vote: Unanimous**

**Chair Thomas adjourned the meeting at 7:44 pm.**