



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
March 4 2020 7 pm

CENTRAL FIRE STATION, 5000 Okemos Rd, Okemos MI (PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN LOCATION)

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:00 PM
2. GREEN THEME PRESENTATION: Theresa Lark, Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council will discuss MMEAC's work with green infrastructure and further collaboration with Meridian.
3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
5. PUBLIC REMARKS
6. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. New Appointment – Courtney Boersema
 - B. Other
7. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Green Infrastructure and Green Building Developments
 - B. Township Board Meeting Presentation March 31 at 6pm. In addition to discussing, Climate Action Report Year II, Climate Emergency Resolution, and PAH (Coal Tar Sealant) Recommendation, Dr. Wolfgang Bauer, MSU Associate VP for Administration will be on hand for a presentation on MSU's large solar array project.
 - C. Wetland Bank: Inspection March 6th at 10am. There's a sign on the property marking the land preserve on Tihart between Cornell and VanAtta. Let's plan on meeting near there on the North Side of the Road. Emma Campbell may send a more specific parking location.
 - D. Other
8. CHAIR'S REPORT
9. STAFF REPORT
10. COMMISSION/LIASON/WORKGROUP REPORTS
 - A. Tree Team
 - B. Planning
 - C. Land Preservation
 - D. Energy
 - E. Brownfield Redevelopment Authority
 - F. Green Team
 - G. Transportation
11. PUBLIC REMARKS
12. ADJOURNMENT



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2020 7:00 PM

PRESENT: Aparna Krishnamurthy, Bill McConnell, John Sarver, Jim Kielbaso, Kirk Lapham, Susan Masten, Rose Vadnais, Courtney Wisinski (Township Board Liaison)
STAFF: LeRoy Harvey, Environmental Programs Coordinator
GUESTS: Courtney Boersema (MSU), MSU Journalism Students

Agenda: Approved with moving Green Theme Presentation forward on the agenda.

Green Theme Presentation: Trustee Wisinski shared research she and her son have done on plastic. A copy of her presentation can be found at: <https://www.meridian.mi.us/government/boards-and-commissions/environmental-commission> under "Green Themes" You can also to www.meridian.mi.us > government > Boards & Commissions > Environmental Commission > Agenda, Packets, Minutes, and Other Documents (at the bottom of the page).

Highlights: Several local stores offer alternatives to plastic bags. She is looking for input on next steps. Potentially we could do education and outreach, survey the community, support "ban the ban" (HB 4500), or draft a local ordinance? Masten and Sarver suggested the possibility of "green business" recognition maybe through our Environmental Stewardship Awards. Other research might include cost/benefit analysis, examination of natural fibers, etc. McConnell suggest staff could potentially assist in reaching out to the business community and others involved with the issue (similar to Phosphates, PAH, etc.).

Minutes: Minutes from January were approved with changes.

Public Comments: Courtney Boersema described her class team's project on assisting with a Green Infrastructure Tour of the Township. She is also working with Bob Wilson and Amy Butler on legislation related to green schools and sustainability curriculum.

New Business:

New Appointment of Liaison: Trustee Wisinski was recognized and welcomed.

Goals and Next Steps

- Tree Planting: Tree Team met beforehand. Report to follow.
- Climate Action Plan
 - Green Infrastructure Review: Teresa Lark will present options at the next Green Theme
 - Green Building Code
 - Waste Reduction (plastic bags, etc.), and related incentives to reduce greenhouse gases.
 - PAH Ordinance: Trustees will discuss at their next meeting.
- Ongoing Tasks/Responsibilities
 - Green Themes
 - Wetland Use Permits
 - Environmental Stewardship Awards
 - Collaboration (with other Commissions, Boards, Trustees)

Wisinski was invited to discuss shared goals with the Township Trustees (such as the Tree Bank). Lapham mentioned that the Recycling Center Location/Function Review relates to one of the 2020 Board Goals.

Old Business

Environmental Commission Presentation at Board Meeting: Harvey invited to draft a script and present at the 2/18 Board Meeting (*this has been rescheduled*). Sarver offered to attend and Jackson was suggested as a resource person. Topics will include:

- Climate Sustainability Report
- Climate Emergency Resolution
- Coal Tar-Based (and other high PAH) Sealant Ban

Wetland Bank: Steve Pennington with EGLE offered to do a walk-through of the property to determine if it is eligible for a wetland bank (prior existence of wetland). The Land Preservation Board will also discuss next week to determine agreement on this next step.

Reports:

Chair's Report: Lapham shared the Environmental Commission goals and accomplishment at the recent Joint Commission meeting. There is interest in Tree Initiative and wetland banking. Trustees asked for Commission involvement in future recycling options. Lapham felt the meeting was valuable to learn about other commission goals and projects.

Staff Report: Harvey mentioned the construction of a new Material Recycling Center in Lansing which may affect future of our recycling center. A survey was created (currently open) to gather input about the recycling center. The Spring Recycling Event is being planned for April 25. Harvey is working with MSU Class on a Green Infrastructure Tour for Meridian.

Tree Team: Kielbaso mentioned interest in working with the schools and research on pricing. Lapham reports that the major project is one or more plantings in Haslett and Okemos schools with the possibility of distributing seedlings. Another project might be trees around parking lots to help with shade and cooling. Harvey had also suggested working with MidMEAC to help coordinate the tree planting day and possibly review green infrastructure codes and ordinances. MMEAC will present at the next Green Theme. Lapham and Vadnais will draft a summary of the two main projects and share with Treasurer Deschaine.

Planning: Dave Premoe is still the liaison but not in attendance. McConnell, new on the Planning Commission, reports that the a medical marijuana facility permit application was presented. There is also discussion of form-based code and a senior living proposal for the Haslett Village Shopping Center.

Energy Team: The Energy Team continued to discuss incentives for renewable and efficiency improvements. There's interest in what other communities are doing. The RFPs for the solar PV systems are coming soon.

Green Team: Krishnamurthy reported that Okemos Action has been working with a fundraiser for the student greenhouse. They are also planning on assisting with the Spring Recycling Event and are open to other suggested projects. Harvey reported that the Farmers' Market info table was staffed by Green Team volunteers this month. This will continue as volunteers are available. Okemos Action may help.

Transportation Commission: McConnell reports that there is a special meeting planned for Thursday at the Central Fire Station to discuss improvements to Jolly Rd.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:15 pm.

Next Meeting: March 4 at 7pm (Please send agenda items and updates or related info. to harvey@meridian.mi.us)

Note: Video available at: [http://meridianmi.swagit.com/play/02052020-864\\]ponm,./](http://meridianmi.swagit.com/play/02052020-864\]ponm,./)

