



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Administrative Conference Room
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6 2019 7:00 PM

PRESENT: Chair, Bill McConnell; Vice Chair, Ned Jackson; Commissioner, Aparna Krishnamurthi; Commissioner, Jim Kielbaso; Commissioner, Linda Burghardt; Commissioner, John Sarver; Commissioner Kirk Lapham
ABSENT: Commissioner, Commissioner Susan
STAFF: LeRoy Harvey, Environmental Program Coordinator; Peter Menser, Principal Planner; Mackenzie Dean, Assistant Planner; HOMTV Interns and Staff.
CITIZENS: Susan Andrews, Bryana Guevers, Gary Laundrude, Martha Stanbury

GREEN THEMES PRESENTATION: Mike Pennington, Wetland Mitigation Specialist, described MDEQ's wetland banking process and information about a grant and loan program that provides municipal funding for bank establishment. Mr. Pennington is actively involved with wetland banks and provided some helpful information about how Meridian might develop a wetland bank. View his presentation here: <http://meridianmi.swagit.com/play/03062019-894>. His slides are also available.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Minutes approved with edits.

PUBLIC REMARKS: Susan Andrews provided an overview of her PFAS research which included participation in two webinars. She also notified us about two upcoming webinars that relate to our interests: https://www.michigan.gov/deq/0,4561,7-135-3308_3333---,00.html

NEW BUSINESS

- a. We briefly discussed a joint meeting with the Land Preservation Advisory Board to continue discussing pros, cons, and next steps related to a wetland bank. Our April meeting is a work session on the Wetland Ordinance. *(Because we have two members on the both groups, it might make sense for interested EC members to join Land Pres. At 6:30 on the 2nd Wednesday)*
- b. New Commissioner Linda Burghardt was welcomed.
- c. The La Fontaine Automotive Group Wetland Permit, consultant recommendations, and Planning Staff Review was shared by Peter Menser. Questions were answered by the La Fontaine owner and consultant. The motion, prepared by staff was offered by Mr. Kielbaso:

MOTION to recommend approval of Wetland Use Permit #19-01 to fill a 0.007 acre regulated wetland at 1448 Grand River Avenue subject to the conditions proposed by the Township's wetland consultant in the report dated February 11, 2019.

Chair McConnell offered an Additional condition:

10. Include a description and discussion of site alternatives and why they were rejected.

Motion and additional condition: PASSED

OLD BUSINESS

Wetland Ordinance will be discussed at the E.C. Work Session in April.

Environmental Stewardship Awards: An overview of former Award Winners was reviewed. Applicants are encouraged

STAFF REPORT

Mr. Harvey shared information about a regional rain barrel and compost bin sale as well as information about upcoming recycling events. See midmichigancompostersale.ecwid.com

COMMISSION/LIASON/WORKGROUP REPORTS

- A. Planning: Mr. Premoe is on his way back from Panama. Chair McConnell mentions the helpfulness of the Township's new e-notification system. <http://www.meridian.mi.us/be-in-the-know/here-s-what-s-happening/sign-up-enotifications> Because of this, he is aware of a joint Township Board/Planning Meeting on Monday.
- B. Energy: presentation on the Carbon Fee and Dividend will be held on April 9 at 7pm in the Okemos Library. The Energy Team continues to work on the 100% renewable plan. There is a meeting being planned with the East Lansing Meridian Water and Sewer Authority to discuss a community solar project.
- C. Brownfield Redevelopment Authority: Mr. Jackson is looking for a volunteer to fill in for him at 8am next Thursday (3/14). The meeting will include a discussion of the development of downtown Okemos.
- D. Green Team: Ms. Krishnamurthi share information about her outreach and education efforts in local schools. She also mentioned a willingness to help recruit folks for both Recycle Rama, Meridian Recycling Event and other activities. Friends of the Parks was recommended as a source for possibilities.
- E. Transportation: Chair McConnell mentions the Redi-Ride proposal is under consideration.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:46pm