

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2016
6 PM – SERVICE CENTER

Members Present: Julie Brixie, Roland Harmes, Frank Hatfield, James Kielbaso, Jon Mayes, Margo Smith

Members Absent: Yu Man Lee, Mark Stephens

Staff: Jane Greenway, Parks and Land Management Coordinator; Kelsey Dillion, Land Stewardship Assistant; Robin Faust, Administrative Assistant II

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Kielbaso called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

2. Approve Agenda

BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE MOVED, BOARD MEMBER SMITH SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA. Voice vote. Motion passed.

• Public Remarks

None

4. Approve Minutes

a. December 9, 2015 – BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE MOVED, BOARD MEMBER HATFIELD SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 9 2015 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

5. Communications

- Advisory Board Member List Updated
- 2016 Board Meeting Calendar
- Press Release: Meridian Land Preserve 7 Local Scouts Prepare Their Defense Against Deer
- 12-15-15 update from Land Stewardship Assistant Dillon

BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE MOVED, BOARD MEMBER MAYES SECONDED, TO ACCEPT AND PLACE THE ITEMS OF COMMUNICATION ON FILE. Voice vote. Motion passed.

When asked the status of the joint meeting between the Environmental Commission, Land Preservation Advisory Board and Park Commission, Chair Kielbaso replied Associate Planner Harmony Gmazel is currently working on a map of the Township illustrating all the upland, wetlands, locations of parks and land preserves, development areas, etc. He would like to see this project completed before setting the meeting and is looking toward late spring.

6. Old Business

None

7. New Business

a. Election of Officers

Chair Kielbaso opened the floor to nominations.

BOARD MEMBER SMITH MOVED TO NOMINATE JAMES KIELBASO AS CHAIR FOR 2016. BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE SECONDED AND ADDED THE FRIENDLY AMENDMENT TO ALSO INCLUDE NOMINATION OF JON MAYES AS VICE CHAIR.

James Kielbaso accepted the Chair nomination and Jon Mayes accepted the Vice Chair nomination.

Hearing no other nominations, Chair Kielbaso closed the floor to nominations.

Roll Call:

AYES: Margo Smith, Roland Harmes, Julie Brixie, Jon Mayes, Frank Hatfield, James Kielbaso

NAYES: None

Motion passed.

8. Land Management Report

- a. 2016 Updated Management Plan – Stewardship Assistant Dillon summarized the monthly accomplishments and updates from December 2015 to present
- b. Reviewed the Land Preservation Management Plan for 2016
- c. Reviewed the proposed management activities and opinion on costs chart for 2016
 - Under #6, Stewardship Plans/Invasive Species Assessment, remove the \$8,000 for Southwest Land Preserve

- Change all titles Northwest Land Preserve to Towar Woods
 - Invasive Species Management activities can be contracted out
- d. Signage
- Suggested speaking with Frank Teleweski at Beal Gardens about signs, sign locations/placement to avoid them being stolen, costs, etc.
 - May want to include prohibiting drones as well as flying of model airplanes; may also need to update the Ordinance to address drones on land preserves
 - Suggest being specific on dog feces removal signs
 - Would like to see text for all signs before ordering
- e. Educational materials
- Will be working with HOM-TV staff on the production of videos to help get youth more involved in land stewardship activities; suggested sending videos to teachers
- f. Reviewed the Southwest Meridian Upland Management Plan
- g. Land Preservation Program page from the 2016 Parks and Recreation Family Fun Guide
- h. Leslie Kuhn has mentioned attending the February LPAB meeting to discuss funding for the Mid-Michigan Stewardship Network
9. Other (pink)
- a. Joint Meeting with Boards and Commissions; January 12, 2016, 6 pm, Meridian Township Hall
- Chair Kielbaso reported he attended the meeting along with Board Member Mayes and new Member Lee. He presented the report in the meeting packet and stated it was a good meeting. There was a discussion on the Township Survey results and land preservation was one of the questions and suggested reviewing the survey results on the website.
- b. Property Evaluation Criteria Form
- Board Member Hatfield reported the current form that uses numbers, which create a subjective rather than an appropriate ranking. He drafted a new form which lists headings quoted from the Township Ordinance.
- Discussion:
- Can check off a feature and/or offer a comment
 - The new form does not score a property
 - Current form is very frustrating
 - If change forms, what is most effective
 - Since there may be only one or two more purchases to cover the Millage amount, do we want to change the screening form
 - Maybe a simple ranking would be great

- The new form illustrates main points used by appraisers, the other form was too difficult
- Use the current form but attached a recommendation section that is on the new form
- A lot of volunteer hours were spent creating the current form and question not using it
- Suggest using both for the next property evaluation to see how they work side by side

10. Public Comment

None

11. Announcements

- a. LPAB Meeting; February 10, 2016, 6 pm, Meridian Service Center
- b. Coordinator Greenway reported speaking on WKAR radio about the deer management program and noted that Ann Arbor is using sharp shooters

12. Closed Session

BOARD MEMBER MAYES MOVED, BOARD MEMBER SMITH SECONDED, TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS LAND ACQUISITION ISSUE.

Roll Call:

AYES: Frank Hatfield, Jon Mayes, Julie Brixie, Roland Harmes, Margo Smith,
James Kielbaso

NAYS: None

The Land Preservation Advisory Board entered closed session at 7:55 pm.

BOARD MEMBER MAYES, BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE SECONDED, TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION.

Roll Call:

AYES: Frank Hatfield, Jon Mayes, Julie Brixie, Roland Harmes, Margo Smith,
James Kielbaso

NAYS: None

The Land Preservation Advisory Board returned to open session at 8:55 pm.

13. Adjournment

BOARD MEMBER SMITH MOVED, BOARD MEMBER MAYES SECONDED, TO CLOSE THE MEETING.

The meeting closed at 8:56 pm.