

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4,, 2015
6 PM – SERVICE CENTER

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

Members Absent: Robert Rusch

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 6:02 pm.

2. Approve Agenda

- Under item #4, Approve Minutes, add August 26, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes which were distributed at the meeting.
- Under item #10, Land Management Coordinator Report, add 2015/2016 Financial Report

BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE MOVED, BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

3. Public Remarks

None

4. Approve Minutes

- a. June 10, 2015 Minutes
- b. July 8, 2015 Site Tour Notes
- c. August 12, 2015 Site Tour Notes – second paragraph, last sentence, change “the” to “near” southern property line
- d. August 26, 2015 Special Meeting Minutes
- e. September 9, 2015 Site Tour Notes

BOARD MEMBER SMITH MOVED, BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES WITH AMENDMENTS. Voice vote. Motion passed.

5. Welcome Kelsey Dillon, Land Stewardship Assistant

Coordinator Greenway introduced Kelsey Dillon who began working for the Township two weeks ago. She is very experienced, have been very happy with her work so far, and got off to a quick start working with Dave Caszatt on a planting in the Northwest Preserve. She will be working approximately 24 hours a week with 80% to Land Preserves and 20% to Parks.

Stewardship Assistant Dillon summarized her work experiences, the planting project in the Northwest Preserve, and creation of the Meridian Parks Volunteer Connection.

- a. Davis/Foster Invasive Species Recommendations – Coordinator Greenway reported that she included the following in the meeting packet:
 - stewardship plan which includes the site inventory, analysis and recommendations
 - signage currently on the site pertaining protecting the natural area and its habitat
 - information from the Michigan Audubon Society
 - Focus Group meeting minutes
 - the WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program) Grant information
 - Site Restoration Update
 - Invasive Species Assessment
- b. At the current time, Assistant Dillon is focusing stewardship activities on Davis/Foster, Northwest (Towar Woods) and Southwest Meridian Uplands (Sturk) preserves but this could change after the Board looks at the needs for 2016.
- c. Black Locus removal – Assistant Dillon has spoken to a resident who lives adjacent to the Davis/Foster Preserve regarding a growth of black locus in the northwest corner of the preserve. She walked the site with the resident who is interested in assisting with the removal of this invasive. She is recommending the removal of the smaller ones and treating the larger ones with basil bark. She assured the Board that this treatment will not hurt the existing habitat and that it would, in fact, maintain the open grassland
- d. Meeting with Leslie Kuhn – Assistant Dillon has met with Ms. Kuhn regarding invasive removal projects, Stewardship Network, and DEQ permitting processes
- e. MISIN App (www.misin.msu.edu) – Suggest Assistant Dillon would log into the database to record and track her invasive work
- f. Work Plan developed by Nick Sanchez – Assistant Dillon will update activities that need to be addressed from the work plan created by former Assistant Sanchez and will work with Coordinator Greenway to development recommendations for a stewardship management plan with a priorities list
- g. Assistant Dillon was requested to do a second spray on the invasive behind the Haslett bus garage that Assistant Sanchez did last year and to look into the phragmites in the Central Meridian Uplands and along the Inter-Urban Pathway which may also need treatment

6. Communications

- a. From Rick Brown, former Associate Planner; RE: request for joint meeting been the Environmental Commission and Land Preservation Advisory Board (LPAB):

Coordinator Greenway spoke with Associate Planner Brown regarding the request and suggest earlier in the year such as February or March might be a good time but wanted to talked with the LPAB first. After a brief discussion, Staff was directed to schedule a meeting in February and to include the Park Commission

- b. From: Board Member Stephens; RE: MISIN App web address; database to track invasives
- c. To: Michelle Beloskur, Executive Director, Ingham Conservation District; RE: letter of support of the Michigan Department of Natural Resource's Invasive Species Program grant application
- d. To: Dr. Leslie Kuhn, Mid-Michigan Stewardship Initiative; RE: letter of support of the Michigan Department of Natural Resource's Invasive Species Program grant application
- e. From: Vern Stephens; RE: planting of the 7-acre prairie in early spring at the Southwest Meridian Uplands – Staff and Board Member Stephens gave a brief update on the progress of the project
- f. From: Leslie Kuhn, Stewardship Network; RE: Stewardship Report on the Sturk/Southwest Meridian Uplands Preserve Visit on July 8, 2015

7. Presentations

None

8. Old Business

a. Re-naming Land Preserves

Board Member Brixie reported on developing a naming contest for some of the land preserves with Staff and the Communications Department who spread the word through social media (Facebook and Twitter); on the township website; and through a press release. The Towne Courier also wrote a story about the project. The naming contest began by soliciting new names for 5 of the 19 preserves and the suggested names are listed beneath each current name.

1. Northwest Preserve

- Towar Woods (4 votes)

BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE MOVED, BOARD MEMBER SMITH SECONDED, THAT THE LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD CHANGE THE NAME OF THE NORTHWEST PRESERVE TO TOWAR WOODS. Voice vote. Motion passed.

2. Lake Lansing South Preserve

- Lake Lansing Cattail Marsh
- Lake Lansing Successional Marsh
-

It was the consensus that the suggestions offered did not describe this preserve and offered the following: Pike Preserve, Carlton Preserve or Carlton Drive Preserve

3. Central Meridian Uplands

- Campus Hill
- The Hill
- Okemos Hills
- Meridian Park
- Meridian Preserve
- Meridian Railway Park

The consensus was that the suggestion of The Hill or Okemos Hills was liked but also suggested Okemos Hill Preserve.

4. Southwest Meridian Uplands

- Hog Hill
- Glacial Hill

It was suggested that Meridian Railway Preserve might be a more appropriate name for this preserve

5. Meridian Central Wetland Preserve

- Virginia White Wetland Preserve
- Pine Lake Outlet Wetlands
- Pine Lake Outlet Preserve
- Meridian Pathway Preserve

It was suggested to not include Pike Lake Outlet or Meridian Pathway in any portion of the name and suggested Haslett Wetlands

It was the consensus of the member to send out a second round of social media requests on the four (4) preserves.

9. New Business

a. Election of Officers for 2016

After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the members to table this item until the January meeting.

b. 2016 Meeting Schedule

The following resolution was offered by Board Member Brixie and supported by Board Member Smith:

WHEREAS, the Land Preservation Advisory Board desires to announce the time, date, and place of all meetings of the Land Preservation Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, the Land Preservation Advisory Board deems the 2016 regular meeting schedule sufficient to uphold the Township Board's Policies and Procedures, and advancement toward the Board's Global Ends; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Land Preservation Advisory Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, that the Land Preservation Advisory Board adopts its regular 2015 meeting schedule as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
January 13	Service Center	6 p.m.
February 10	Service Center	6 p.m.
March 9	Service Center	6 p.m.
April 13	Service Center	6 p.m.
May 11	Service Center	6 p.m.
June 8	Service Center	6 p.m.
July 13	Service Center	6 p.m.
August 10	Service Center	6 p.m.
September 14	Service Center	6 p.m.
October 12	Service Center	6 p.m.
November 9	Service Center	6 p.m.
December 14	Service Center	6 p.m.

1. The Land Preservation Advisory Board has set a schedule to meet on the second Wednesday of the month.
2. Each of the above meetings shall be held at the specified time in the lunch room of the Meridian Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Ct., Haslett, Michigan, (517) 853-4000.
3. Special meetings of the Land Preservation Advisory Board may be called pursuant to the statute thereto appertaining.
4. Regular meetings may be canceled, recessed or postponed by members of the Land Preservation Advisory Board pursuant to the statute thereto appertaining.
5. A summary of this resolution stating date, place, and time shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township, and a copy of this resolution shall be posted in the Meridian Municipal Building.

Roll Call:

YEAS: Jon Mayes, Roland Harmes, Frank Hatfield, Julie Brixie, Mark Stephens, James Kielbaso, Margo Smith

NAYS: None

The resolution passed

- c. Recommend appointments to LPA Board

Administrative Assistant Faust reported the terms expiring this year are Roland Harmes, Jon Mayes and Robert Rusch. She distributed a copy of the Application for Public Service from Jon Mayes and John Schlinker. When

asked about his application, Roland Harmes indicated he wanted to be reappointed, had filled out application and will be sending it in.

Board Members reviewed the following Applications for Public Service:

- Donald Dickmann
- Yuman Lee
- Rico Rios
- Michael Thomas
- Roger Wallace
- Jon Mayes
- John Schlinker

BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE MOVED, BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS SECONDED, TO RECOMMEND THE RE-APPOINTMENT JON MAYES AND ROLAND HARMES AND APPOINTMENT OF YUMAN LEE TO THE LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD.

Discussion:

Board Member Smith offered the friendly amendment to separate out the re-appointment and appointment motions. Board Members Brixie and Stephens accepted.

BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE MOVED, BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS SECONDED, TO RECOMMEND THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF JON MAYES AND ROLAND HARMES TO THE LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD. Voice vote. Motion Passed.

BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE MOVED, BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS SECONDED, TO APPOINTMENT OF YUMAN LEE TO THE LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD.

Discussion:

- Yuman Lee has a background in conservation sciences and works for MSU/Michigan Natural Resources Inventory which would be a great addition to the Board.
- Donald Dickmann is a retired professor of forestry and worked for MSU and would be a great addition.
- When asked if Staff had heard from Robert Rusch, Coordinator Greenway replied not since the November 2014 LPAB meeting.
- Michael Thomas served on the Environmental Commission and previously on the Land Preservation Advisory Board and helped to create the criteria used by the Board in property evaluations

Roll Call:

YEAS: Mark Stephens, Julie Brixie, Roland Harmes, Jon Mayes

NAYS: Margo Smith, Jim Kielbaso, Frank Hatfield

Motion passed.

10. Land Management Coordinator Report

- There have been 12 deer taken to date; three have been reported with CWD and are related in our area; over 500 deer were taken by the sharp shooters; 72 hunters are enrolled in our program with no baiting this year; East Lansing is researching having sharp shooters in their area.
- Included the Quarterly Reports submitted by the Parks and Recreation Department that include activities under Land Preservation; in the future, LPAB would like copies of the report that highlight just the land preservation items
- Financial Report – Board Member Brixie reported the packet included the Land Preservation Budget Summary for 2015 and the Preliminary Financial Statements as of September 30, 2015. The long-term financial picture looks good. When asked how much there is for stewardship and maintenance, she replied there is 2.8 million for acquisition and maintenance and can spend up to 2.5 million on any activity. The current millage will expire in 2020. When asked about a more permanent position for land preservation activities, Coordinator Greenway replied Director Maisner has included additional staffing time in the recommended budget but the request has not been approved by the Township Board. Board Member Brixie stated when looking at funding a full-time position, a benefit package would also need to be included and at the current time, the Township Board is not including additional full-time staff to the budget.

Discussion:

- ✓ do not want to lose good people because the Township is only offering 24 hours a week
- ✓ have enough land now and need to focus on managing and maintaining the land
- ✓ suggested creating a three-year contract position with a set amount to cover a full-time position with the understanding it was only short-term and do it without benefits
- ✓ suggesting talking with Ingham County Parks and share a position like we did when we employed Nick Sanchez
- ✓ Asked staff to look into the options of short-term contract employment or other employment options that could be offered

11. Other

Board Member Hatfield voiced a concern about lack of communication on the Southwest Meridian Uplands project and would like to improve the communication process with more frequent updates. He is very concerned about creating an ecological problem on the Southwest Meridian Uplands site

12. Public Comment

None

13. Closed Session

BOARD MEMBER SMITH MOVED, BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE SECONDED, TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS LAND ACQUISITION OPPORTUNITIES.

Roll Call:

AYES: Jon Mayes, Frank Hatfield, Julie Brixie, Mark Stephens, Jim Kielbaso, Margo Smith, Roland Harmes

NAYS: None

The Board moved into closed session at 7:58 pm.

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER SMITH SECONDED, TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION.

Roll Call:

AYES: Jon Mayes, Frank Hatfield, Julie Brixie, Mark Stephens, Jim Kielbaso, Margo Smith, Roland Harmes

NAYS: None

The Board moved into open session at 8:34 pm.

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER SMITH SECONDED, FOR STAFF TO TAKE SUCH ACTION AS WAS DISCUSSED DURING CLOSED SESSION. Voice vote. Motion passed.

14. Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm.