



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Township Service Center  
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court | Haslett, MI  
Wednesday, September 10, 2025, 6 PM

PRESENT: Board Members: Jamie Hiller, Steve Thomas, Kathy Fay, Kris Parnell, Yu Man Lee (Environmental Commission), Mark Stephens (Park Commission), Angela Demas (Township Board).  
ABSENT: None.  
STAFF: Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Hiller called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

a. None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

a. September 10, 2025

**Commissioner Stephens moved to approve the September 10, 2025 Agenda to place on file. Commissioner Lee seconded.**

**Voice vote: Unanimous**

4. APPROVE MINUTES

a. June 11, 2025

**Commissioner Stephens moved to do a friendly amendment to approve the closed session minutes from the June 11, 2025 minutes to place on file. Board member Fay seconded.**

**Voice vote: Unanimous**

b. August 13, 2025

**Chair Hiller moved to approve the open session minutes from the August 13, 2025 minutes to place on file. Board member Parnell seconded.**

**Voice vote: Unanimous**

5. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Beth Bechtel, letter for public comment.

Commissioner Stephens moved to place communications on file. Board member Parnell seconded.  
Voice Vote: Unanimous.

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### **6. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

#### **a. Prescribed Burn Program**

##### **i. Legg Park**

1. Starting discussion to plan for the 2026 prescribed burn program.
2. Funds could come from both Land Preservation and Parks and Recreation as a match for stewardship efforts.
  - a. Invasive and native plants don't know what boundaries are. Collaborative funding could maximize efforts between parks and preserves for the best land management practices.
  - b. Land Preserve Ordinance will need to be honored. Legal will look into the logistics of this.
3. Look into the potential of utilizing Green Grant funds.
4. Prescribed burn discussion will be on for the October Park Commission meeting.
5. Land Preserve funds are utilized for staff across parks and preserves to do stewardship and invasive species management.
6. Focus on the invasive species aspect, managing autumn olive in Legg Park to the benefit of the adjacent Red Cedar Glen Preserve.
7. Presentation to Park Commission on importance of prescribed burn.

#### **b. Cornell-Sweetwood Preserve Naming**

- i. Sweet Woods Preserve
- ii. Sweetwood Preserve
- iii. White Oak Preserve
- iv. Cornell Oaks Preserve
- v. Ask Parks Department staff for ideas as well

**Vice Chair Stephens makes a motion to move into closed session. Board member Parnell seconded.**

**Roll Call:**

**Ayes: Jamie Hiller, Steve Thomas, Mark Stephens, Yu Man Lee, Kathy Fay, Angela Demas, Kris Parnell.**

**Nays: None.**

**(BEGIN CLOSED SESSION)**

- #### **c. Parcels for Acquisition Consideration**
- i. Parcel B (Memo 6.C.I)
  - ii. Parcel C

**Commissioner Stephens moved to end closed session. Vice Chair Thomas seconded.**

**Roll Call:**

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

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**Nays: None.**

**(END CLOSED SESSION)**

**Vice Chair Thomas makes a motion to take such action as discussed for Parcel B in closed session. Clerk Demas seconded.**

**Rolla Call:**

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

**Nays: None.**

**7. REPORTS**

- a. STAFF REPORT: Stewardship Coordinator, Emma Campbell
  - i. MCC September Stewardship Calendar
  - ii. Staff Report, memo attached.
- b. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT: Commissioner Yu Man Lee
  - i. Presentation from the Great lake Renewable Energy Council. There is a goal to have 100% renewable energy for all Township buildings by 2030 using a combination of solar and energy credits from Consumer's Energy.
  - ii. Green Grants: Environmental Commission plans to do site visits for Green Grant funded projects as well as Wetland Use permits. Environmental Commission could be involved in site visits for potential acquisitions.
  - iii. September 20<sup>th</sup> is the fall electronic recycling event.
- c. PARK COMMISSION REPORT: Commissioner Mark Stephens
  - i. Discussed prescribed burn to go on as an item for the October 2025 meeting.

**8. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- a. None.

**9. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

- a. Township Board Listening Session on September 30, 2025.

**10. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 at 6 pm at the Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Okemos, Michigan 48864.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**Vice Chair Thomas moved to adjourn the meeting. Board member Parnell seconded.**

**Chair Hiller adjourned the meeting at 8:16 pm.**