



**AGENDA**  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
November 3, 2021 7 pm

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**ZOOM MEETING: 867 3903 8953** Password: **5151** (click [here](#) or phone 646 558 8656 or 301 715 8592)

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT UPDATE: MONTESSORI RADMOOR
3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
5. PUBLIC REMARKS
6. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. Timely Environmental Topics
  - B. New Commissioner Application
  - C. Other
7. OLD BUSINESS
  - A. Wetland Education
  - B. Other
8. COMMISSIONER & STAFF UPDATES (any additional and relevant committee, study group, and/or personal items to add to [bit.ly/EC-update](http://bit.ly/EC-update) in packet)
9. PUBLIC REMARKS
10. ADJOURNMENT



## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

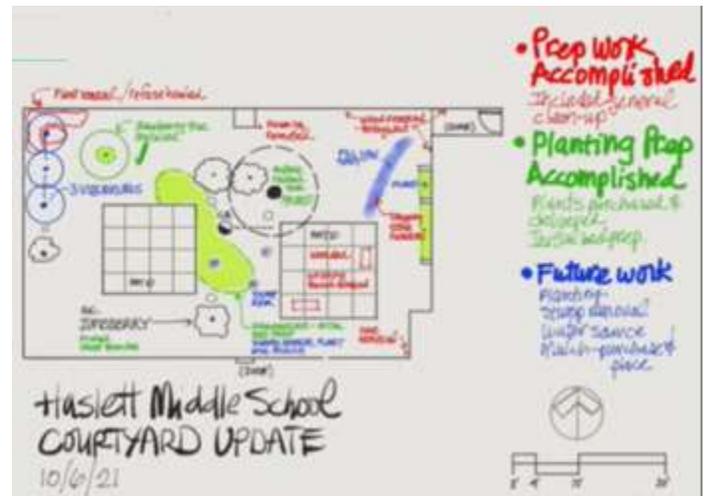
October 6, 2021

View at [meridianmi.new.swagit.com/videos/141232](https://meridianmi.new.swagit.com/videos/141232)

### Green Infrastructure Grant Update:

#### Bridget Booth, Haslett Middle School (HMS)

Booth is an 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Teacher at HMS with a background in Environmental Education (Woldumar Nature Center). She's been working with two student groups (last year's are now at the high school) and a landscape architect (who helped with the MSU Children's Garden) brainstorming, designing the site (including a rain garden), prepping the site, weeding, selecting and purchasing native plants, talking with students/teachers, and more. Eventually the site will be an outdoor classroom, safe space for solitude/decompression, research/data collection, etc. A work day is scheduled for mid-October. View presentation at the link above.



**Agenda:** McConnell motioned to approve the agenda. Seconded by Frazier. Approved unanimously.

**Meeting Minutes:** Grasseschi clarified her comment under **Environmental Justice:** Grasseschi sees connections with the flooding and wetlands. Frazier motioned to approve. Colby seconded. Unanimously approved.

**Consent Agenda:** Lafferty proposed that reports be included in a consent agenda to save time. Commissioners will be invited to edit a Google document the Thursday before the meeting). Frazier suggested that the public should have access before the meeting. C. Wisinski suggests piloting it at the next meeting. Here's the link:

<https://bit.ly/EC-update>

**Wetland Outreach & Education:** Harvey mentioned that the letter and brochure will be distributed next week. The Wetland Education Committee (Kendra, Courtney, LeRoy, and Emma) is working on a plan for ongoing outreach. The next is a Fall Landscaping Tips. There will be an effort to share timely, seasonal, dramatic, and uplifting stories and outreach (Jackson mentioned flooding stories as an example).

**Commissioner Updates:** This is new experimental and personal option to supplement committee updates with non-agenda updates. Anna: is involved with a composting/organic waste management committee on (Capital Area Sustainability Partnership) CASP. She'll be meeting with local and national partners. She invited Valerie to be involved on a task-force. Valerie mentioned a potential speaker from NRDC as well as creation of a "Board of Advisors" who might help as needed. Ned asked about new and existing candidates and potentially serving as an advisor. Bernadette mentioned an Earth Club meeting where they discuss student/pollution issues. She organized a clean-up from the Homecoming Parade. Several students are participating in a "Climate March" this month. Valerie mentioned "Solarize Meridian" as an upcoming way to get a discount on solar systems and invites others to share interest. Luca and Annaka reiterated the trash challenge. Courtney asked what we can do? Luca suggests that it's partly a way of rebelling against being told what to do. Annaka mentioned the possibility of more recycling. Bernadette mentions that there is belittling of janitors. Luca asked about getting statistics from janitors. Ned mentioned a friendly janitor at Haslett that made a big difference. He mentioned a potential "job-shadowing" role for students as an idea.

### Updates

- **Staff Report:** Harvey thanked the Energy Team for helping with the kick-off of the Solar and Sustainable Tour. Still no word on the Recycling Center. He shared an on-line update at <https://bit.ly/EC-update>
- **Board of Trustees:** Wisinski reported that the Board approved \$10G for Green Grants, \$5G for Wetland education, and \$100G for solar improvements.
- **Brownfield Redevelopment Authority:** Jackson reports that the BRA met recently. There five projects underway. The most active is the property (280+ apartment units) behind Applebee's near Jolly & Okemos. All

have been impacted by increasing material costs. Haslett Marathon, Village of Okemos, Haslett (by old Mr. R's) and others are moving forward.

- **Land Preservation Advisory Board/Tree Team:** Grasseschi mentioned discussion about Davis-Foster Preserve (most ecologically diverse in Ingham Co.), wetland/trees/vernal pool protection. She will be meeting with Steve Thomas about a potential tree ordinance.
- **Energy Team:** Sarver mentioned talking with 40 people at the kick-off of the Solar Tour at the Market. Meridian is doing well toward its goal of 40% solar, compared to other communities. He reiterated planning for the Solarize Meridian Project workshops.
- **Environmental Justice:** Grasseschi and C. Wisinski have been discussing equity issues.
- **Green Infrastructure Grants:** Harvey reports that Montessori Radmoor will present to the E.C. next month.
- **Green Neighbors:** Harvey mentioned possibility of an informal network of experts structured similarly to and complementing the Green Neighbors Network

**Meeting Adjourned at 8:34pm**

## Commissioner & Staff Updates: November

(<https://bit.ly/EC-update>)

Please share any items you'd like as part of a "consent agenda" and/or to supplement your personal or group/team report. If possible, please complete by noon on the Thursday before our meetings (1st Wednesday). List current (and even future) topics your team/group is working on that might *likely* be of interest to Commissioners.

*Idea?* At our live meetings, rather than run through each group, we could ask you individually if you have group updates relevant to E.C as part of your optional "Commissioner Update"?

**Next Meeting: November 3, 2021** If you complete by the **last Thursday of the month - Oct 28 at noon**, I will include in the packet.

BOARD/COMMISSIONS	Update, Next Steps, and/or Potential Discussion Topic(s)
Board of Trustees (Courtney)	
Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (Ned)	The Brownfield Redevelopment Authority meeting was cancelled.
Land Preservation Advisory Board/MCC (Kendra, Emma)	LPAB did not meet in October. However, LPAB experts presented "Protecting our Wetlands" for the MSU Extension community. MCC continues to have field education workdays including native plantings and fall cleanups. For more information, please visit... <a href="https://www.meridian.mi.us/government/departments/meridian-conservation-corps">https://www.meridian.mi.us/government/departments/meridian-conservation-corps</a>
Planning Commission (Bill)	<p>The Planning Commission is starting to work on the revision of the Master Plan, last updated in 2017. For historical context:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Greenspace Plan was adopted in 2003, and is mentioned in both the 2005 and 2017 Master Plans</li> <li>● The Climate Sustainability Plan was adopted in 2017, and was adopted by reference in the 2017 Master Plan</li> </ul> <p>What I was suggesting is that the Environmental Commission consider how it might best contribute to the relevant portions of the next Master Plan. Perhaps a good first step is to review the content the Greenspace and Climate Sustainability Plans with an eye to accomplishments and remaining challenges.</p>
Transportation Commission (Bill)	
Other	
STUDY GROUP/TEAM	
Food & Organics Study Group (Anna, Valerie, Tom Cary, Dave Batten, Nevin Brittain, Darla Jackson)	Ingham Co Food Bank is joining the discussion at our next meeting to better understand how they accept and distribute food (interested others are welcome to join). We'd also like to get a handle on food waste at Oke & Has schools...hopefully we can get representation from schools at the Nov 5th Zoom at 1:30PM meeting.
Earth Club/Student Groups (Bernadette, Luca, Annaka)	Pollution at OHS has been getting better at OHS thanks to ACTION. Not much else has been going on due to college applications.

Energy Team (John, Roger, Valerie, Heidi, LeRoy)	EcoWorks and LeRoy provided an update on building energy use data and portfolio manager. Discussed possible new solar systems at municipal and public safety buildings. Discussed possible discount schedules for the Solarize Meridian project.
Environmental Justice (Courtney, Kendra)	Discussing equity issues.
Green Infrastructure Grants (John, LeRoy, Rose)	Bridgette Booth presented to the Board of Trustees. Davis Coye of Montessori Radmoor will present in Nov to the E.C.
<a href="#">Green Neighbors</a> (John, Kendra, Sarah, LeRoy)	There is interest in another meeting in November.
Green Team (Tom, LeRoy, Ellen, Elaine, Sarah, Dave, Luca)	The Green Team met on 10/20 at the MarketPlace to distribute trees and plan the next event. There will be a winter gear/coat collection on 11/20 at the MarketPlace from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. A more comprehensive event may happen in the spring.
Tree Team (Emma, Jane, Kati, Derek, Michelle Beloskur, Kendra, Rose)	Land Preservation is interested in partnering on a tree ordinance.
Wetland Education & Outreach (Kendra, Courtney, LeRoy, Emma, Brandie)	The wetland educational letter and brochure were mailed to the community. EC was approved \$5000 for a wetland educational campaign for 2022. Monthly education outreach plans are being developed and implemented. Timely topics are being addressed including protecting our watershed, flooding, fall cleanups, native planting, etc.. Ongoing timely educational plans continue to focus on seasonal/timely outreach and issues (cyanobacteria, flooding, clean-ups, etc.)
<b>COMMISSIONER &amp; STAFF</b>	Other timely and interesting updates and issues and resources
<b>CHAIR</b> (John)	
<b>STAFF</b> (LeRoy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 180 Trees Distributed (Oct 20 and 23 at Marketplace. Thank you Valerie, Tom, Madison (Engineering Intern), and Michelle Beloskur (Ingham Conservation District)</li> <li>● Green Team is planning a Winter Coat and Warm Gear Collection at the Marketplace on Nov 20</li> <li>● Neighborhood Clean Up Friday afternoon (Oct 29) in partnership with Central Park Estates and Granger (contact LeRoy)</li> <li>● November <a href="#">Green Gazette</a> is in the works</li> <li>● Waiting to hear on the EGLE grant to revitalize recycling center</li> <li>● Attending the <a href="#">Green Dialogues</a> on Wednesdays at 9am</li> <li>● Presenting to the Haslett H.S. Climate Club at 7:15 am 10/29</li> <li>● I am interested in your thoughts about “Wicked Problem Solving” -- <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wicked_problem">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wicked_problem</a></li> </ul> <p>What are “answers” to problems that are difficult or impossible to solve as climate change, wetland protection, etc. Dr. Rex LaMore responded:</p> <p>“The way I teach my students about wicked problems in they are best understood as problems to which we do not have a clear goal in mind</p>

	<p>(not sure what we want accomplish) nor do we have tested methods to address the problem. So it is not so much they are unsolvable it is just that we have to do two things. 1.) help a community to build a consensus about what it wants to do (a goal) and 2.) test methods to create the desired outcome once you have that consensus. Once we have a clear goal in mind and a method to achieve that goal ...we can solve a “wicked” problem.”</p> <p>More thoughts: To me, most of you are doing this already! You are involved at school, work, home and in the community doing what you are passionate about. Finding your inspiration, staying positive (or at least hopeful), trusting yourself, not being afraid/taking risks, and remaining open-minded are helpful. Also,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● focusing on what we want</li> <li>● enjoying the moment / going with the flow</li> <li>● appreciating what is and eager for more</li> <li>● quieting our minds</li> <li>● expecting good things and ideas</li> </ul> <p>Your thoughts?</p>
<p><b>Ned Jackson</b></p>	<p>I attach the link below to this NYT article about leaf blowers, a particular peeve of mine, both for noise and emissions-based pollution. They could be something we consider banning, or at least proposing rules that favor the electric options. That would go a long way toward addressing the emissions, considering how noxious they (and all 2-stroke machines) are.</p> <p><b>The First Thing We Do, Let’s Kill All the Leaf Blowers</b></p> <p>Nearly everything about how Americans “care” for their lawns is deadly, but these machines exist in a category of environmental hell all their own.</p> <p><a href="https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/25/opinion/leaf-blowers-california-emissions.html?smid=em-share">https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/25/opinion/leaf-blowers-california-emissions.html?smid=em-share</a></p>
<p><b>Bill McConnell</b></p>	<p>East Lansing Water Treatment Plant News (where our sewage goes)</p> <p><a href="https://www.lansingstatejournal.com/story/news/2020/10/01/east-lansing-water-treatment-plant-cut-energy-use-half-methane-recovery/3589488001/?fbclid=IwAR3JlCLCuKgmKIRkgARLfsc13HNXf25WLH_7VeVzOjkXh8dJcCOZvZcW2cU">https://www.lansingstatejournal.com/story/news/2020/10/01/east-lansing-water-treatment-plant-cut-energy-use-half-methane-recovery/3589488001/?fbclid=IwAR3JlCLCuKgmKIRkgARLfsc13HNXf25WLH_7VeVzOjkXh8dJcCOZvZcW2cU</a></p>

# CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

Ronald J. Styka  
Deborah Guthrie  
Phil Deschaine  
Frank L. Walsh

Supervisor  
Clerk  
Treasurer  
Manager



Courtney Wisinski  
Patricia Herring Jackson  
Dan Opsommer  
Kathy Ann Sundland

Trustee  
Trustee  
Trustee  
Trustee

## APPLICATION FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

I am interested in service on one or more of the following public bodies as checked below:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assessing Board of Review*   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elected Officials Compensation Commission* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Water and Light Representative*                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Commission                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brownfield Redevelopment Authority*                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Lansing Watershed Advisory Committee*            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Building and/or Fire Board of Appeals and Building Hearing Officer | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Preservation Advisory Board                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capital Area Transportation Authority (C.A.T.A.)        | <input type="checkbox"/> Park Commission (elected/appointed)                   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications Commission*                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Pension Trustees                                      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Resources Commission                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning Commission                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corridor Improvement Authority*                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Township Board (elected/appointed)                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Downtown Development Authority*                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Commission*                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> East Lansing-Meridian Water & Sewer Authority                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning Board of Appeals                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development Corporation                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other   |

(\*Special conditions restrict eligibility for appointment)

Indicate areas not included above which may warrant special attention or study that are of interest to you:

Summarize your reasons for applying for this type of public service: *It is a privilege AND duty to serve your community.*

Describe education, experience or training which will assist you if appointed. (Attach resume if available): *Former Judge : Substitute Teacher*

Name: Beverley Nettles  
 Occupation: Attorney Place of Employment: Private Practice  
 Home Address: 2372 Fieldstone DR  
 Phone: (days) 517-29-5378 (evenings) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail bev.nettles.law@gmail.com  
 Signature Beverley Nettles Date 9-13-2021

Other than the Downtown Development Authority Board and the Economic Development Corporation, persons appointed to Meridian Township boards and commissions must be a resident and elector (if of voting age) of the Township during the term of office. Excessive absences may be cause for review of appointment.

(PLEASE USE BACK IF NEEDED)

The policy for appointment of candidates to the various public service positions is based on the following criteria: desire to serve, experience, expertise, availability of time to serve, and maintenance of equitable geographic representation. In most instances it will be desirable to develop further information through a personal interview. This application will be retained in township files for two years. Please return this form to the Office of the Clerk, Charter Township of Meridian.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY				
Date Received		Distro:	Application #	
Registered Voter:	Y / N			
Date Appointed:				