



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Township Service Center
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court | Haslett, MI
Wednesday, September 11, 2024, 6 PM

PRESENT: Board Members: Jamie Hiller, Steve Thomas, Yu Man Lee, Kathy Fay.
ABSENT: Kris Parnell, Mark Stephens, James McCurtis.
STAFF: Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator.
TOWNSHIP: None.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. MOMENT OF SILENCE

A. Remembering September 11th the board takes a moment of silence.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

A. September 11, 2024

Commissioner Lee moved to approve the September 11, 2024 Agenda to place on file. Vice Chair Thomas seconded.

Voice vote: unanimous.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

A. July 10, 2024

Vice Chair Thomas makes a motion to place the July 10, 2024 minutes on file. Board Member Fay seconded.

Voice vote: Unanimous.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

A. None.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Acquisition Request & Review

a. Factors to consider for this parcel: wetland present, native plant species present,

Minutes – Land Preservation Advisory Board

September 11, 2024

Page 2 of 3

- b. neighborhood interest, Township greenspace plan enhancement. Board members are once again interested in the idea of a conservation easement, but are not sure what exactly that would entail. It could help protect and steward areas in the Township that are also developed in some part.
- c. Board members would like staff to take the next step and send a letter of interest and get permission to do a walk through in November/December.

7. REPORTS

- A. STAFF REPORT: Stewardship Coordinator, Emma Campbell (Exhibit A)
 - a. Update on current preserving projects & issues
 - i. Staff is working on invasive species; reed canary grass, invasive phragmites, Japanese knotweed. Invasive shrub cutting is starting as well as native seed collection.
 - b. MCC September Stewardship Calendar
 - c. Deer Management Program starting in October
- B. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT: Commissioner Yu Man Lee
 - a. U of M does a program called Catalyst Communities Fellowship Program (greenhouse gas inventory). Is there something that the LPAB would like done as a project? Perhaps wetland inventory/quality.
 - b. Greenspace plan; provide suggestions to assess progress we have made on the greenspace plan and how we can continue to enhance it. How does it correspond to the master plan and the climate sustainability plan?
 - c. Climate Sustainability Funding may be halted next year.
- C. PARK COMMISSION REPORT: Commissioner Mark Stephens.
 - a. Absent.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. None.

9. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

- A. NONE.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 at 6 pm at the Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Board member Fay moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Lee seconded.

Voice vote: Unanimous

Chair Hiller adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Exhibit A



STEWARDSHIP

STEWARDSHIP SATURDAYS | 9:30 AM - 12 PM

These workdays occur every other Saturday year round.

- September 7th, Red Cedar Glen (end of Sylvan Drive), native planting
- September 21st, Lake Lansing North Preserve (1000 Wild Ginger Trail)
Join us to celebrate the start of fall with cider donuts and & native planting!

WEEKDAY WARRIORS: Occurs every other Thursday

- September 12th, Sander Farm (end of Sago Way), native seed collection
- September 26th, Davis Foster (5120 Van Atta Rd.), native seed collection

VOLUNTEER THANKOJET | 6 PM - 8 PM

A celebration of our hardworking community!
 • Join us at the Central Park Pavilion (5151 Marsh Rd.) for a night of food, refreshments, lawn games, and good conversation! BYOB: alcohol is allowed in the park, just no glass please.



S M T W T F S

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

PLEASE CONTACT EMMA AT ECAMPBELL@MERIDIAN.MI.US, OR 517.853.4614



WEEKDAY WARRIORS 1-3 PM

VOLUNTEER THANKOJET 6-8 PM

STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY 9:30-12 PM

STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY 9:30-12 PM

WEEKDAY WARRIORS 1-3 PM

STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY 9:30-12 PM

Item 7.A



To: Land Preservation Advisory Board Members
From: Courtney Wisinski, Director of Parks & Recreation
and Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator
Date: September 17, 2024
Re: Meridian Township Deer Management Program 2024

Meridian Township is heading in to its thirteenth year of urban deer management. Urbanization has caused an over-population of deer that has resulted in an increase in reports of vehicle/deer collisions, concern for public, and a disruption of the ecological balance of our natural areas. While these remain the priorities of our program, we will continue to grow and evolve to best serve our community as well as the health of the Township's white-tail deer population.

2024 Meridian Deer Management Overview:

- MDNR Deer Management Plan submitted and approved for 300 deer harvests utilizing Deer Management Assistance Permits (DMAP). These permits allow for antlerless harvest only.
- 67 residents are registered as volunteer archers, to enact the management program from October 1st, 2024 to January 1st, 2025.
- 43 Township properties have been selected for the 2024 management program with volunteer archers placed at each (2023 management map attached)
- 26 private properties have given permission for hunter placement during the archery season.
- All volunteers are required to donate their first deer harvested. All donated venison is delivered to local food banks, and processing costs are paid by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. In 2023-2024, 6,156 pounds of venison was donated to 16 local food banks.
- Michigan State University will be collaborating with the Deer Management Program to conduct research on tick-borne diseases and their burden on the white-tail deer population (memo attached).

Meridian is a leader in urban deer management and provides a unique opportunity for residents to participate in important land management. Collaboration with researchers at Michigan State University and state biologists with the MDNR will continue to provide important data to aid in future management decisions for white-tail deer in the Township.

Item 7.A.c



To: Land Preservation Advisory Board Members
From: Courtney Wisinski, Director of Parks & Recreation
and Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator
Date: September 11, 2024
Re: Michigan State University Deer Targeted Anti-Tick Project Collaboration

We are pleased to continue our partnership with Michigan State University conducting research on the deer and tick population utilizing the Deer Management Program. The goal of this research project is to potentially develop a deer-targeted oral drug delivery unit to reduce the environmental risk to humans due to tick-borne diseases, such as Lyme disease. The research with Meridian Township is based solely on gathering information on the deer and tick population and the potential dissemination techniques that could be used for future administration of anti-tick medication. As a result of this collaboration, Meridian Township will benefit from data received, which will provide information on our deer herd numbers as well as the rate of Lyme disease in the Township.

Objectives of the study:

- Quantify questing tick abundance and parasitism of deer.
- Quantify deer and non-target wildlife species use of field sites for potential deployment of oral medication delivery units.
- Quantify consumption rates of a food product designed to deliver medications to white-tailed deer at different times of year.
- Quantify uptake of a placebo biomarker (rhodamine B) by deer to examine theoretical uptake of medication.
- Communicate project goals and results to Township officials and public.
- Study fawn mortality rates in the Township.

Michigan State researchers will continue the project through the 2024-25' deer management season, conducting field recon prior to the archery season to ensure study sites are chosen with little to no public activity. There will be six to eight sites of study total across Township lands. The study will remain in effect until May 2026. Township staff place high value on research collaboration with Michigan State University, and the benefits future studies will provide for the local wildlife, natural areas, and residents of Meridian Township.