

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 11, 2012
7:00 p.m. Meridian Service Center

Members Present: Chair James Kielbaso, Frank Hatfield, Jon Mayes, Margo Smith, Mark Stephens

Members Absent: Vice Chair Mary Helmbrecht, Steve Webster, Ken Sink

Staff: Land Management Coordinator Jane Greenway

Public Present: Leslie Kuhn; Elise Hansen-Tripp, Fishbeck, Thompson, Carr & Huber

1. Chair Jim Kielbaso called the Meeting to Order at 7:03 p.m.

2. Public Remarks

None

3. Approval of Agenda

Item #9a was amended to include "Review Meeting Time." Item #9b was amended to include "Lake Lansing North Prescribed Burn Report, Leslie Kuhn."

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

4. Approve Minutes of March 14, 2012

BOARD MEMBER SMITH MOVED, BOARD MEMBER HATFIELD SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 14, 2012 MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

5. Communications

- March 11, 2012, Bryan Holland, 1400 Sylvan Glen Road
- March 13, 2012, Jane Crowner, 2354 Sower Boulevard

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

6. Presentations

a. Invasive Species Assessment Reports, Elise Hansen-Tripp, FTCH
Ms. Tripp presented the reports for the following land preserves: Red Cedar Glen, Hubbell, Davis/Foster, Foster/Crouse, Rysberg (Central Meridian Uplands).

1. Red Cedar Glen Land Preserve

Upland/wetland forest, historic disturbance includes planting of pine trees and former agricultural fields, most of the invasive plants were found along the path and in the "old field" area, the most common woody invasive shrubs were autumn olive and honeysuckle. Very few invasives were found along the river. Recommendations include routine inspections and removal of invasive shrubs. The reed canary grass near the entrance to the preserve is difficult to control, especially in conditions such as this where it is found off-site. Ms. Tripp said that this preserve was the most beautiful one she has visited in Meridian Township, so far.

2. Davis Foster Land Preserve

Impressive property with huge prairie restoration project that appears to be very successful, Canada thistle is moving in from the perimeter, it will need two applications of chemical treatment, the prairie area should be burned in early spring, there are high quality plants on the west side of the property but the invasive buckthorn is creeping in, there are small patches of phragmites and narrow-leaved cattail, it is important to treat the small patches of invasives before tackling the large colonies, there is one Siberian elm on the south-east side of the property that should be girdled and killed or cut down.

3. Foster-Crouse Land Preserve

The property is a diverse combination of upland forest and forested wetland, also emergent wetland. The understory is generally open, the worst area is in the southern portion and it is the most disturbed

and has many invasive shrubs. There are also many invasives along the western property line, including reed canary grass. Glossy buckthorn is found on the east side. There are many glossy buckthorn saplings that would be ideal for a volunteer to pull. The area appears to be reverting back into a forest. The forest portion is high quality. The edges are disturbed and low quality. The west side's emergent wetland is a nice quality wetland.

4. Hubbell Land Preserve

The land preserve is a diverse property with two drains, a forested wetland, a second growth upland, and an emergent wetland. There are large hardwoods and an open understory. The north side of the drain is a former two-track road. The adjacent area to the two-track is full of reed canary grass. There is a small bridge on the drain and a cable half-way down the drain. The north side of the property has a strangely shaped channel. The areas with the most invasive species are at the interface between the forest and the open field; these areas are solid with invasive shrubs. There is a small phragmites colony in the ditch, there is a large patch of lily of the valley in the north-east portion of the farmhouse. There is also Oriental bittersweet on two of the trees and it is killing the trees. The best management technique may be to let the area revert back to forest and to manage the invasive species.

5. Rysberg/Central Meridian Uplands

This property is in the worst shape of any properties reviewed so far. The south-west portion is dense with invasive shrubs (honeysuckle). The north-east part of the forest is very nice. Japanese barberry is popping up all over. The "habitat" structures in the mitigated wetland are installed incorrectly.

9. b. Lake Lansing North Prescribed Burn Update, Leslie Kuhn
(Item #9b was taken out of order)

Prescribed Burn:

Leslie reported that 30 acres were burned in two sections. Overall, the prescribed burn was a great success. Five Ingham County Park staff members assisted and Leslie spent 70 hours making a burn perimeter. Many neighbors came out to watch. The burn was featured on the front

page of the Lansing State Journal. The LPAB asked if the exclosures were installed yet and expressed concerns about the deer eating the new vegetation. Leslie reported that the exclosures will be installed as soon as possible.

Light Meter Request:

Leslie requested permission to use a portion of the approved \$15,000 for the purchase of a light meter. MSU professors Lars Brudvig and Doug Landis are studying how measured changes in a canopy and are assessing how much light reaches the understory. Nick and Leslie would carry out the monitoring.

DEQ Aquatic Permit:

In 2012, four land preserves and one park will be included on the application. Aquatic glyphosate is used to treat the invasive grass, phragmites. Ingham County Parks paid the entire \$800 permit fee in 2011. Now they are requesting that LPAB make a partial contribution toward the fee of the permit. In 2011, two land preserves were included on the application.

BOARD MEMBER SMITH MOVED, COMMISSIONER MAYES SECONDED TO CONTRIBUTE \$300 TOWARD THE \$800 MDEQ AQUATIC NUISANCE PERMIT FEE.

Roll Call:

AYES: Kielbaso, Hatfield, Mayes, Smith, Stephens

NAYS: None

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, SMITH SECONDED, TO MAKE A FRIENDLY AMENDMENT TO CONTRIBUTE \$400 TOWARD THE \$800 MDEQ AQUATIC NUISANCE PERMIT FEE.

7. Land Management Coordinator Report

- Invasive Species Treatment Northwest Preserve – On April 14, Naval Seal Cadets will be assisting our volunteers and a garlic mustard pull is being planned for late spring.

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER MAYES SECONDED TO SPEND UP TO \$150 TO PURCHASE PIZZA FOR THE SEA CADET VOLUNTEERS WHO WILL BE REMOVING INVASIVE SPECIES FROM THE NORTHWEST LAND PRESERVE.

Roll Call:

AYES: Kielbaso, Hatfield, Mayes, Smith, Stephens

NAYS: None

- Davis/Foster Preserve – Obtained a third quote for a prescribed burn in fall 2012 or spring 2013 (will be partly reimbursed by WHIP grant). Also plan to treat invasives with herbicide. Additional posts were installed along the boundary. Chuck Riley will be placing leg bands on woodcock chicks on behalf of the DNR.
- Central Meridian Uplands/Rysberg – Wetland mitigation plantings are complete. A geocache permit application was submitted for the property.
- Review of Board Member Manual
- Jane reported on the status of the Red Cedar Glen drainage issues. The Township Board approved the recommendation plan, as provided by the Land Preservation Advisory Board.

8. New Business

None

9. Old Business

a. Meeting time

The Board discussed moving the meeting time from 7 p.m. to 6 p.m. It was decided to hold the next meeting at 6 p.m., on a trial basis.

10. Other

a. Upcoming Educational Sessions

LPAB discussed ideas for upcoming educational sessions: Township Assessor, MNFI, wetland experts, how to understand the ecological criteria score sheet.

11. Public Comment

None

12. Closed Session

BOARD MEMBER HATFIELD MOVED, COMMISSIONER STEPHENS SECONDED TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSSION PROPERTY ACQUISITION.

Roll Call:

AYES: Members Frank Hatfield, James Kielbaso, Jon Mayes, Margo Smith, Mark Stephens

NAYS: None

The Board Members entered into closed session at 9:30 p.m.

COMMISSIONER SMITH MOVED, COMMISSIONER STEPHENS SECONDED TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION.

Roll Call:

AYES: Members Frank Hatfield, James Kielbaso, Jon Mayes, Margo Smith, Mark Stephens

NAYS: None

The Board Members returned to open session at 10:00 p.m.

13. Adjournment

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER SMITH SECONDED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. Voice vote. Motion passed.

Chair Kielbaso adjourned the meeting at 9:45 pm.