



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
February 5, 2025 7 pm

Town Hall Meeting Room, 5151 Marsh Rd, Okemos

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. PUBLIC REMARKS
3. CHANGES TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
5. NEW BUSINESS
 - Presentation by Harrison Batten: Student Earth Club Report
6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
 - Greenspace Plan
 - Climate Sustainability Planning
 - Other
7. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - 🌐 Staff <http://bit.ly/update-leroy>
 - 🌐 Liaisons
 - 🌐 Teams (Energy, Green, Food, Green Burial, Green Grants, etc.)
 - 🌐 Haslett/Okemos High School
 - 🌐 Other
8. PUBLIC REMARKS
9. ADJOURNMENT

Environmental Commission Meeting Summary: January 8, 2025 (draft)

Present: John Sarver, Yu Man Lee, Nickolas Lentz, Cynthia Peterson, Bill McConnell, Harrison Batten, Laura Belisle. Guest: Dave Batten (Gleaning initiative, Green Team, Ridesharing Coordinator, and volunteer)

Absent: (excused) Tom Frazier, Richard Miksicek

Public Comments: David Batten discussed the growth of the Gleaning Project which has steadily increased for the past three years. This past summer, volunteers received and distributed over 4.5 tons of food.

Introductions: Commissioners introduced themselves.

Greenspace Plan: McConnell mentioned speaking to Dan Opsommer gathering information/data on areas in the plan.

Township Goals: Lentz summarized 2025 [Township Goals](#) which include (condensed).

- Tell our story better
- Provide exemplary services
- Implement environmental-friendly and sustainability projects
- Enhance our reputation as a prime community
- Move toward construction of a new senior center

Climate Sustainability Plan: McConnell suggested that we review the Climate Sustainability Plan. Some areas overlap with environmental goals such as the Solarize Project. McConnell provided an overview of the Climate Sustainability Plan which includes energy efficiency, renewable energy, waste reduction/recycling, food waste, water, wetlands, transportation, etc. Review the latest draft as a [Google Doc, PDF](#) or a “[Flipsnack](#)” There was quite a bit of conversation about composting, food waste reduction/collection/rescue/food audits, etc.

Next Steps: Possibilities include a work session, follow-up presentations about outreach (especially from students), Earth Club Presentations (H. Batten), Lee asked about tracking progress with an Excel spreadsheet to facilitate planning. Lentz asked about the amount of staff time. Harvey mentioned potential involvement from the Green Team, Energy Team, Wetland Education, etc.

Staff & Liaison Reports:

Staff: Harvey mentioned that the Green Team is putting together a list of “Green Events” in collaboration with local and regional partners. The Green Grant program will be promoted in the next few weeks. Harvey also mentioned a new Circular Economy Grant through Kendra Schneider. The **Green Team** meets in early January.

Gleaning Group/Food Rescue. Batten mentioned the “Glean & Grow” project which involves working with gardens and gardeners to donate food for those in need.

Land Preservation Advisory Board: Lee mentioned a potential new property which is mentioned in the Greenspace Plan. The Land Preservation Board is developing criteria to help prioritize and fund future projects

Township Board: Lentz mention that the Township Board is environmentally interested. He will discuss several of these issues with staff. Tim Dempsey was recently selected as Township Manager and will start in late January.

Energy Team: Sarver reports that the Energy Team discussed Solarize, promotion, a Green Fair in June, zoom workshops, and community solar. McConnell mentioned a project with ALDI and East Lansing (electric leaf blowers).

Green Burial: McConnell mentioned that there is some staff concern about costs and expansion of green burial options.

Green Grants: Harvey reports that \$20G has been set aside for the program. There's also a climate sustainability fund which has dollars remaining from 2024.

Earth Club: H. Batten reported that the Sustainability Club recently met and had an interactive education session with students from Ralya Elementary. He also met with the Superintendent to discuss better communication in the schools. Green District is a certification that schools can get if they complete a certain number of activities.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Send corrections to harvey@meridian.mi.us

Recording available at HOMTV.net

The Environmental Commission typically meets on the 1st Wednesdays at 7pm in the Town Hall meeting room, 5151 Marsh Rd., Okemos, MI.

2025 Environmental Commission (draft)

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STAFF: LEROY HARVEY	harvey@meridian.mi.us 517.853.4466
Student and Student Alternate Position – 1 year position	open
OPEN: Project Engineer/Env. Commission Representative.	www.meridian.mi.us/about-us/careers



MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP

2025 Green Events Guide

- Feb 15** Green Team @ Meridian Mall
- Mar 15** Green Ideas
- Apr 26** Spring Recycling Day
- May 17** Plant a Native Meridian
- Jun 21** Energy Fair
- Jul 19** Green Commuting & Eco-Tourism
- Aug 16** Green Fair
- Sep 20** Electronics Recycling



Find more details at:
www.meridian.mi.us/greenmeridian

Meridian Mall, 1982 W. Grand River Ave. Okemos
Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Dr.



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