

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2016
6 PM – SERVICE CENTER

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

Members Absent: Julie Brixie, Yu Man Lee

Staff: Jane Greenway, Parks and Land Management Coordinator; Kelsey Dillon, Land Stewardship Assistant

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Kielbaso called at 6:03 pm.

2. Approve Agenda

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER SMITH SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

3. Public Remarks

None

4. Approve Minutes

a. March 9, 2016

- Page 1, last bullet, change “the meeting” to “a site visit”
- Page 2, 4th bullet, change to read: The work area of the drain terminate at Bennett Road
- Page 2, #4a, under Project Description, change “problem” to “parcel”
- Page 3, correct spelling to Thomas Repaskey
- Page 3, under Commissioners comment; first check, add “to” before “review”
- Page 4, 5th check, change end of comment to read: “far west of the parcel”
- Page 4, 9th check, 4th line, remove the word “in”
- Page 5, item #8a, last sentence to read: “The new proposed resolution suggests a 55% total match.
- Page 6, 5th paragraph, verify percentage (46%)

- Page 7, item 9, 8th bullet, change to read “ordered new tree identification tags

BOARD MEMBER SMITH MOVED, BOARD MEMBER MAYES SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MARCH 9, 2016 MINUTES AS AMENDED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

5. Communications

- a. From Patricia Lackey; RE: support acquisition of 89 acres from Ponderosa LLC
- b. From: Kelsey Dillon, To: LPAB Members; RE: work in Towar Woods
- c. From: Kelsey Dillon, To: LPAB Members; RE: prescribed burn
- d. From: Carla Clos, Ingham County Drain Commissioners Office; RE: Update and seed mix for drain maintenance disturbance at Sower Woods Land Preserve
- e. From: Jane Greenway; To: LPAB Members; RE: Update on seed mix for Sower Woods Land Preserve

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

6. Old Business

None

7. New Business

None

8. Land Management Coordinator and Land Stewardship Assistant Report

Stewardship Assistant Dillon reported:

- on the prescribed burn at Davis/Foster Land Preserve; it was conducted in early March; burned the thatch
- new preserves – invasive species removal with Outdoor Expressions to remove buckthorn (2.5 acres); Matt Jones assisted immensely; used large equipment; paid special attention to deer exclosure perimeter; Dave Caszatt and Don Dickmann were out doing a lot of invasive grape; beautiful trees saved in the area; Nick Sanchez assisted by marking the trees to protect; he got close to ground, mulched everything; did an excellent job
- Yard waste article in Meridian Monitor
- Spoke to MSU students about invasive species

- Towar tree planting – two day event; 80 planted in one day and 40 in the second day; sugar maple, bur oak and red oak; Board Members Smith and Kielbaso assisted; installed blue X tubes and sprayed roundup
- Inquired about oak wilt disease which primarily hits red oak family; it was reported that if the trees are undamaged, they should be fine
- Picnic beetles are attracted to stressed trees
- Board Member Smith suggested HOM-TV make a video showing the progress of the site
- Wrote an informative letter to Dream Lakes about yard waste and garlic mustard; will include copy in next meeting packet
- Southwest Meridian Uplands (Sturk)
 - Vern Stephens disked and cultivated the 7 acre site; seeded at end of April with grasses
 - Will want to plant forbs in fall using seed balls with Bennett Woods students
 - Member Frank Hatfield visited property and bollard placement
 - Will need to install a trail head sign
- Capital Area Audubon Society
 - Site visit at Rysberg, sent bird list to LPAB
- Davis/Foster Farm
 - Mrs. Mahon's class field trip to Davis Foster Preserve at end of May; expecting 80-90 students
 - Michigan Wildflower Farm will create a spring seed mix for site
- Sower Woods
 - Garlic mustard pull scheduled for upcoming Saturday; neighbor Steve Thomas will lead
 - Board Member Stephens reported the sponge tubes work well for garlic mustard
 - Will focus on edges and then will move to interior
 - Reported vandalism on the sign
- Common Natural Area of Bear Lake, Dream Lakes, Sapphire Lakes
 - Board Member Smith assisted with a garlic mustard pull
- Assistant Dillon participated in a HOM-TV interview on oak wilt and the garlic mustard challenge
- Board Member Stephens reported on using dawn dish soap, salt and vinegar; Mid-Michigan Extension service grant;
- Received herbicide kits for phragmites to use this fall

9. Public Comment

None

10. Closed Session

BOARD MEMBER MAYES MOVED, BOARD MEMBER SMITH SECONDED, TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS ACQUISITION ISSUES.

Roll Call:

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

NAYS: None

The Land Preservation Board entered into closed session at 7:10 pm.

BOARD MEMBER MAYES MOVED, BOARD MEMBER SMITH SECONDED, TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION.

Roll Call:

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

NAYS: None

The Land Preservation Board returned to open session at 8:30 pm

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER SMITH SUPPORTED, TO DIRECT STAFF TO PROCEED WITH ITEMS AS DISCUSSED DURING CLOSED SESSION.

Roll Call:

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

NAYS: None

Motion passed.

11. Other

Board Member Hatfield reported on attending the branding session at the Town Hall and said the City of Zeeland just went through this process.

12. Announcements

None

13. Adjournment

Hearing no objection, Chair Kielbaso adjourned the meeting at 9 pm.