



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Zoom Meeting  
Wednesday, April 14, 2021, 6 PM

PRESENT: Board Members: Yu Man Lee; Steve Thomas, Mark Stephens, Jamie Hiller, Chanelle Russ, Kris Parnell, Kendra Grassesschi  
ABSENT: None.  
STAFF: Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator; Rebecca Fisher, Stewardship Intern  
TOWNSHIP: Township Trustee, Dan Opsommer

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

CHAIR HILLER MOVED TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:02 PM.

**2. APPROVE AGENDA**

**CHAIR HILLER MOVED TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO ADD DAVIS-FOSTER PRESERVE OVERLOOK TO STAFF REPORT ITEM A, AND DAVIS-FOSTER PRESCRIBED BURN UPDATE TO OLD BUSINESS ITEM C.**

**TRUSTEE OPSOMMER MOVED TO APPROVE THE AMENDMENT OF THE AGENDA. Board Member Stephens seconded.**

**VOICE VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

**3. INTRODUCTIONS**

- A. Rebecca fisher started as the new Stewardship Intern on April 8, 2021. Rebecca introduces herself to the board.
- B. Kendra Grassesschi elected to the Environmental Commission and chosen as the representative to the Land Preservation Advisory Board. Kendra introduces herself to the board.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 10, 2021 MINUTES. Seconded by Board Member Lee.**

**VOICE VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

**5. COMMUNICATIONS - NONE**

**6. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Re-Naming Preserve Properties
  1. Updated list converted into a Survey123 format; survey created for Board Members to vote on top 2 names for each preserve candidate. Results of survey were shared by Staff

## Minutes – Land Preservation Advisory Board

February 10, 2021

Page 2 of 4

- Member Campbell. List will be presented to Director of Parks and Recreation for final review.
2. Next steps: Take inventory and photos of preserve signage. Create list of signage needs, and incorporate new preserve names into signage bids.
- B. Foster-Crouse Preserve
1. Bike trail final decision
    - a. Board members discuss three options to vote on for the allowance of bikes on Foster-Crouse Preserve.
      1. Option 1: Allow the riding of bicycles on established Foster-Crouse Preserve trails.
        - A. Roll call vote: None.
      2. Option 2: Allow the passage of bicycles by walking only on established Foster-Crouse Preserve trails and install educational signage to promote this allowance.
        - A. Roll call vote: Board Member Stephens, Board Member Parnell, Vice Chair Thomas, Board Member Lee, Board Member Russ, and Chair Hiller.
      3. Option 3: Do not allow the use of bicycles on Foster-Crouse Preserve.
        - A. Roll call vote: None.

**BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED TO MAKE A MOTION TO ALLOW THE PASSAGE OF BICYCLES BY WALKING ONLY ON ESTABLISHED FOSTER-CROUSE PRESERVE TRAILS. Board Member Parnell seconded.**

**VOICE VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

- b. Next steps: Pursue bids and permits for boardwalk installment in wet area of preserve. Inform neighborhood residents of bicycle passage and include on list for signage purchase.
- C. Davis-Foster Burn Update
1. Staff member Campbell summarizes the prescribed burn and events leading up to burn jump. Staff member Campbell discusses burn plan policy moving forward with the board; higher level of communication between the Land Stewardship Coordinator and Meridian Fire Department, guidelines for weather and day of conditions for burn.

**BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED TO MAKE A MOTION TO ALLOW THE PASSAGE OF BICYCLES BY WALKING ONLY ON ESTABLISHED FOSTER-CROUSE PRESERVE TRAILS. Board Member Parnell seconded.**

**VOICE VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Preserve Trail Maintenance: Trailblazer Program and volunteer practices within the preserves.
1. Important points of discussion by board and staff member Campbell on how to maintain preserve trails responsibly:

## **Minutes – Land Preservation Advisory Board**

**February 10, 2021**

Page 3 of 4

- i. Boardwalk maintenance: priority for protection of sensitive or wet areas along established trails.
- ii. Removing invasive species: invasive species alongside the trail contribute to the spread of these species further into preserves and therefore maintenance in these areas is highly important.
- iii. Many residents utilize established trails to access preserve and volunteer maintenance provides ownership opportunities for residents.
- iv. Addition of new trails: acceptable if the goal is to redirect around a sensitive area.
- v. Maintenance of existing trails is necessary to allow safe access for Township staff and residents.

### **B. 2021 Financial Support of the Stewardship Network**

1. Staff member Campbell introduced a resolution to donate funds to the Stewardship Network and Friends of Ingham County Parks.
2. Board discusses revisiting how funds are donated and if there are more local organizations that share our same goals for conservation Meridian Township land.
3. Staff member Campbell will get with local contacts and come back to the next meeting with some options.

**VICE CHAIR THOMAS MOVED TO TABLE FUNDING DONATION RESOLUTION UNTIL OPTIONS ARE DISCUSSED. Board Member Parnell seconded.**

**VOICE VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

## **8. STAFF REPORT**

### **A. Stewardship Coordinator**

- A. Stewardship Workdays
  - I. Invasive species removed at Davis-Foster Preserve, Nancy Moore Park, Hillbrook Park, and Foster-Crouse Preserve
  - II. 179 volunteer hours completed
- B. Earth Month & Spring Stewardship Events
  - I. Every Saturday Spring Stewardship is schedule from March through the end of May
  - II. Earth Day Cleanup scheduled at Tihart-Cornell Wetland and an invasive species pull at Harris Nature Center
- C. Davis-Foster Overlook
  - I. Meet at Davis-Foster to discuss overlook plans, maintenance and improvements at preserve

## **9. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - NONE**

## **10. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS**

- A. Pike spawning area at Lake Lansing South Preserve area
  - I. No contact from DNR
- B. Check on Davis-Foster preserve naming rights

**Minutes – Land Preservation Advisory Board**

**February 10, 2021**

Page 4 of 4

- I. Change name on sign if needed
- C. Bring M.C.C. swag to next meeting for board members

**11. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, May 12th 2021, 6 pm, at Davis-Foster Preserve.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**CHAIR HILLER MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. Seconded by Board Member Stephens.**

**VOICE VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.