



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Township Service Center
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court | Haslett, MI
Wednesday, March 11, 2026, 6 PM

PRESENT: Board Members: Steve Thomas, Kathy Fay, Jamie Hiller, Yu Man Lee (Environmental Commission), Mark Stephens (Park Commission).
ABSENT: Kris Parnell, Angela Demas.
STAFF: Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. 1442 Haslett Rd. preserve encroachment letter received by homeowners of property from the Land Preservation Advisory Board. The homeowners would like the board to consider the encroachment issue as a discussion item at the April 8th, 2026 board meeting.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

- a. March 11, 2026

Board member Hiller moved to approve the March 11, 2026 Agenda to place on file. Board member Fay seconded.

Voice vote: Unanimous

4. APPROVE MINUTES

- a. February 11, 2026

Commissioner Stephens moved to approve the minutes from February 11, 2026 to place on file. Commissioner Lee seconded.

Voice vote: Unanimous

5. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. None.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Pike Crossing Preserve Proposed Pathway
 - i. Pathway proposal discussion by board members. Board members questions, comments, and concerns:
 1. The pathway changed course to reduce habitat fragmentation by going as close to the railroad as possible.
 2. Board members are interested in whether there can be a land swap

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utilizing land acquired by the Township pathways department to make up for preservation land paved for pathway.

3. Pathway millage was first proposed in 1978 and has been in existence since then.
 - a. Not all of the proposed pathways have been on the master pathway plan since then. Some have been added over time, others have been planned for a long time.
 - b. Ingham County Millage is the main funding behind Phase I, Phase II, and Phase III.
4. Vice Chair Hiller asks what type of mitigation can happen to prevent invasive species spread through the allowance of bikes through preserves.
 - a. The Ordinance would need to be looked at for this.
5. There is a concern for board members about the precedence pathways through preserves set, since bikes and pathway creation are not allowed in preserves according to the Township Land Preservation Ordinance.
 - a. Further, there is concern as to how public might tell the difference between parks and preserves once these allowances are made.
 - b. Enforcement can be very difficult, so there is a concern on how to mitigate these concerns around misuse of land preserves.
6. Is there a way to do an easement for the pathway to allow balance the precedent set by the pathways department?
 - a. Even with an easement, the land would still be designated as land preservation property.
7. The long term vision of preserves may be in danger if we continue to allow pathway construction.
8. According to the ordinance, trails are not created or maintained in preserves. There is a concern that we will not be able uphold this part of the ordinance as pathways are installed.
 - a. We currently do not have to maintain preserve trails. We do have staff cut trees that occasionally fall over the trail, but we are not obligated to do this.
9. The pathway maintenance is scheduled to fall under Township engineering and the department of public works.
 - a. 2 feet will be mowed on each side of the pathway.
10. This a complex and difficult decision due to all the conflicting values and beliefs. It's difficult to assign value to each perspective on this issue. Pathways are valuable, wildlife and preservation is also very valuable. The Land Preservation Advisory Board is supposed to protect the preserves.
11. Board members are considering the proposed pathway if there are other land prospects that fit the land preservation program better than Pike Crossing Preserve.
 - a. Pathways would be open to swapping other land parcels.

b. Parcels for Acquisition Consideration

- i. No update.

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7. REPORTS

- a. STAFF REPORT: Stewardship Coordinator, Emma Campbell
 - i. Update on current preservation projects & issues
 1. Spring invasive management
 - a. Lesser celandine (*Ficaria verna*) is staff's priority plant to manage this time of year. Populations are currently managed at Foster Crouse Preserve (the only preserve with a small population), Ted Black Woods, N. Meridian Road Park, and Ottawa Hills Park.
 - ii. MCC March Stewardship Calendar
- b. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT: Commissioner Yu Man Lee
 - i. Wetland special use permit for the Hoskins Drain was reviewed by the commission. Residents filed a complaint with the Ingham County Drain Commissioner for flooding in that area. There will be wetland impacts. The Hoskins Drain does run onto Heron Creek Preserve, so board members are concerned there will be a hydrology impact to the preserve.
 - ii. Update on Marshall Park Bioswale project.
 - iii. Green Grant Program RFP is out.
- c. PARK COMMISSION REPORT: Commissioner Mark Stephens
 - i. Did not have quorum for the meeting. Working with Mannik & Smith group to come up with a 5 year plan for the Parks and Recreation Department.
- d. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT: Clerk, Angela Demas
 - i. Clerk Demas is absent.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. None.

9. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

- a. Commissioner Stephens wants to ensure we are keeping a close eye on the trail construction happening at the property boundary of the Inter-Urban Wetland Preserve.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 6 pm at the Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Okemos, Michigan 48864.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Hiller moved to adjourn the meeting. Board member Fay seconded.

Voice vote: Unanimous

Chair Thomas adjourned the meeting at 7:38 pm.

Exhibit A

Exhibit B

Exhibit C