

# Environmental Commission Minutes (draft)

January 4, 2023

**Changes to Agenda:** Grasseschi suggested adding nominations added to agenda under new business.

**Corrections to Minutes:** Approved with minor typo changes.

**2023 Meeting Schedule:** Approved with removal of July meeting.

## Officer Elections and Liaison Appointments:

- Sarver nominated McConnell. Seconded by Grasseschi. Unanimously approved.
- Colby offered to be Vice Chair. Unanimously approved.
- McConnell nominated Grasseschi to the Land Preservation Advisory Board. Unanimously Approved.
- Harvey will pass these changes on to the Clerk's Office.

## Climate Sustainability Plan:

- Changes on the Transportation Commission may slow down their comments.
- McConnell suggests that staff add the Energy Sections to the Twp. Board.
- Grasseschi and Jackson have been making edits to the water section. Yu March was suggested as a possibility for reviewing the water section(s).
- Harvey asked about the divisions of the water section. Potential areas include wetlands, green infrastructure, groundwater, stormwater, lake/shoreline, etc. C. Wisinski mentioned that the Groundwater Management Board might provide input on that subsection.
- The Food/Composting section will be discussed in February.
- Sarver and McConnell mentioned that the pumping of fresh water and sewage potentially could be addressed in the energy section. The MSU Energy Study may also shed some light on possible energy/water goals. The Directors of the Water Treatment Plants could be helpful as well.

**New Student Application:** Amelia Saffron's application was included in the January packet. Saffron mentioned her interest in native plants and water issues. McConnell invited input from Saffron and others in to the Climate Sustainability Plan.

## Reports and Announcements

**Energy Team:** Solarize Meridian and EV charging. Grant application to the Public Service Commission. Opsommer signed a letter of support. The focus is upon collaboration between Lansing, East Lansing, and Meridian Township

**Green Team:** Harvey shared the upcoming activities at the Marketplace (also in the Packet). The next meeting will be on Jan 12 at 4pm at Chapbook Café if interested.

**Good Food to Smart Recycling:** Lafferty shared a written update. Colby mentioned that the next meeting will be Friday. There will be presentation from 3 officials from Canton Twp and a representative Metro Food Rescue in Wayne County to discuss composting and food rescue/gleaning initiatives.

**Wetlands:** World Wetland Day is on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Emma Campbell (Meridian Conservation Corps) will be doing an event at Nancy Moore Park on that day (more at [www.worldwetlandsday.org](http://www.worldwetlandsday.org)), Emma and Rebecca are working on wetland signage. Over the past year a brochure, a letter, a notice to residents, and a notice to contractors have been distributed. Grasseschi asked if we might add a line or educational materials to the tax notice/assessment. At a minimum, the website (<http://www.meridian.mi.us/wetlands>) could be added to the bottom of the notice. C. Wisinski will ask. Grasseschi suggested that February would be a good time to send the contractor mailing.

McConnell discussed a project at the Commons Church on Marsh Rd. which includes an "infiltration/detention basin" as part of a parking lot expansion. It includes buried drain pipes to help channel extra water that has not infiltrated.

McConnell will continue to “dig in” to retention solutions and how they compare with other treatments he has proposed in the past such as native plantings, etc.

**Planning Commission:** McConnell reported that the Commission met on Dec. 12 and discussed the MSU-Lake Lansing trail and a facelift at Douglas J. and special use permit which included some fill in a floodplain.

**Township Board:** C. Wisinski mentioned that the budget went in to effect. She asked if we might discuss a spending plan at a future meeting. McConnell asked for a recap of spending from 2022 and discussion at our next meeting about a 2023’s budget.

**Earth Club:** Andrechek mentioned that a Sustainable Fashion Committee has been selling “upcycled” clothing on-line at <https://www.depop.com/ohssustainablefashion>. She expects some funds will be used to deal with pests in their student greenhouse at OHS.

**Brownfield Redevelopment Authority:** Jackson will continue to serve on the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

**Staff Report:** Harvey invited commissioners to review his report on-line and ask any questions they might have. <Http://bit.ly/update-leroy>

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm

Full recording available at <https://meridianmi.new.swagit.com/videos/196197>