



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 5151 MARSH RD, OKEMOS
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2 2019 7:00 PM

PRESENT: Commissioner, John Sarver; Commissioner, Jim Kielbaso; Commissioner Kirk Lapham;

STAFF: LeRoy Harvey, Environmental Programs Coordinator; HOMTV Interns and Staff

GUESTS: Dave Premoe, Planning Commission, Susan Andrews, Tom Frazier (Michigan Townships Association), Jennifer Eyre (Scouts), Autumn Eyre (Scouts), Wanda Bloomquist (Williamstown Twp), Marka Ekola (Scouts), Reagan Woods (Scouts), Tim Ekola (Scouts)

Green Theme Presentation: Wanda Bloomquist shared Williamstown Twp's green initiatives including:

- Green Zone Planned Development (an approach to maintaining rural character and environmental qualities) including:
 - A balance of land uses and preservation of natural features
 - Planning innovation – designing with natural features and a “viewshed”
 - Adopting and amending policies and regulations
 - A natural resource inventory
 - Environmental regulations
 - LEED Certifiable Projects
 - Open Space Preservation
 - Energy Efficiency Initiatives
 - Non-motorized pedestrian pathways
- Mowing Reduction (50% decrease goal)
- Green Parks: Naturalized Prairie, Composting Toilets, Bottle Wall
- Green Burial
- Solar Panels, Office recycling and waste reduction
- Log jam removal

View her Powerpoint Presentation [here](#) or visit the live broadcast [here](#).

Minutes: Not approved due to lack of quorum.

New Business:

Green Infrastructure Grant: Treasurer Phil Deschaine has led creation of a Green Infrastructure Project in 2020 and is seeking ideas and leadership from the Environmental Commission. There is interest in putting this on the agenda for our next meeting.

Old Business:

Wetland Banking: Lapham provided an overview of the concept and will be discussing this month with the Land Preservation Board.

Climate Emergency Resolution: Sarver submitted a revised draft resolution available [here](#). Tabled until next meeting.

Reports:

Staff Report: Harvey shared a [staff report](#) summarizing:

- the Fall Recycling Event
- regional collaboration on recycling
- comments about green infrastructure (see his report for note from Cliff Wells)
- the solar garden planting
- pavement preservation – sealants to be applied soon
- community garden tour

Planning Commission: Premoe reports that the Planning Commission is now tackling form-based codes and we should see some progress on that in the months to come.

Land Preservation: Kielbaso mentioned discussion of tree banking, the Davis-Foster barn, a Stewardship Day at Towar Woods Land preservation property. The Land Pres. Board meets next week.

Energy Team: Sarver mentioned the recent Climate Change Forum which was well attended. Sarver also mentioned the upcoming Solar Home Tour which will include two homes in the Meridian area including a condominium system as well as an off grid system that charges electric vehicles. A flyer was distributed.

Green Team: Harvey mentioned that the next Green Team Meeting will be held Nov 7 at 4:30pm at Schulers.

Public Remarks:

Reagan Woods with the Scouts is looking for ideas for projects for an environmental badge. Wanda Bloomquist mentioned a milkweed planting project. Lapham mentioned that Krishnamurthy might also have ideas related to the garden at the high school. Forward your suggestions to Harvey who will pass on to Ms. Woods.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:30 pm.

Next Meeting: Nov 6 at 7pm (send agenda items to harvey@meridian.mi.us)