



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Township Service Center
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court | Haslett, MI
Wednesday, May 11th, 2022, 6 PM

PRESENT: Board Members: Jamie Hiller, Steve Thomas, Kris Parnell, Yu Man Lee, And Kendra Grassesschi.
ABSENT: Board Members: Mark Stephens
STAFF: Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator
TOWNSHIP: Township Trustee, Courtney Wisinski

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

CHAIR HILLER MOVED TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:08 PM.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. NONE.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

A. May 11, 2022

Chair Hiller moved to amend the May 11, 2022 Land Preservation Advisory Board agenda to add item 7B, Board Member Russ resolution of appreciation, as well as to remove item 8A and add discussion about boundary correction at Lake Lansing South Preserve.

BOARD MEMBER PARNELL MOVED TO APPROVE MAY 11, 2022 AMMENDED AGENDA.

Board Member Grassesschi seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. March 9, 2022

Board Member Grassesschi moved to make a correction on Item 10 B to include Wetland Restoration & Education program update and move to Old Business on future board agendas. Township Trustee, Courtney Wisinski present for meeting.

BOARD MEMBER PARNELL MOVED TO APPROVE THE AMMENDMENTS TO THE MARCH 9, 2022 MINUTES AND PLACE THEM ON FILE. Board Member Grassesschi seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

A. None.

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6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Lake Lansing North Preserve site visit to survey ecological burn
 - 1. Vice Chair Stevens gives a summary of the controlled burn & site specific observations.
 - i. The fire went well. Interactions with neighbors were positive.
 - ii. The fire was not hot enough to burn back tree saplings and shrubs due the wet nature of the site at the time.
 - iii. The top leaf litter was burned, adding nutrients & improving native woodland flower habitat.
 - iv. Overall the spring flower population has been observed to be doing well.
 - v. Staff member Campbell also reported that four-toed salamanders have been observed and confirmed this spring. They are considered a species of special concern by the MDNR.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Meridian Township Climate Sustainability Plan
 - 1. Board Member Grassesschi introduces the plan for board review, stating that input from all Township boards and commissions is welcomed and appreciated. Board member comments:
 - i. Apartment complexes should be included as recycling partners the plan. Recycling is often difficult for this demographic.
 - ii. The ordinance pertaining to tree protection could be improved to create better protection for younger, smaller trees.
 - 1. A native vegetation section could be implemented as well to protect smaller trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants.
 - iii. Wetland banking could be added as a way to add more valuable wetlands in the Township for mitigation purposes.
- B. Resolution of Appreciation for Board Member Chanelle Russ

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

At a regular meeting of the Land Preservation Advisory Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held on the 11th day of May 2022, at 6:00 p.m., local time.

PRESENT: Jamie Hiller, Steve Thomas, Yu Man Lee, Chanelle Russ, Kris Parnell, Kendra Grassesschi.

ABSENT: Courtney Wisinski, Mark Stephens.

The following resolution was offered by Advisory Board Member Kris Parnell and supported by Advisory Board Member Kendra Grassesschi.

WHEREAS, Chanelle Russ has served as a member of the Land Preservation Advisory Board of the Charter Township of Meridian from 2020 through 2022; and

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WHEREAS, Chanelle Russ, while serving on the Board, has supported the acquisition and permanent preservation of ecologically important open space and natural features of the Township’s community supported and funded land preservation program; and

WHEREAS, Chanelle Russ has served as the Chair to the Land Preservation Advisory Board for two (2) years supporting multiple acquisitions at the Board level; and

WHEREAS, Chanelle Russ attended many site visits and offered insight about each parcel being considered for addition to the Township’s program; and

WHEREAS, Chanelle Russ has devoted much of her personal time and energy on management and stewardship efforts in multiple land preserves; and

WHEREAS, Chanelle Russ service on the Land Preservation Advisory Board has been beneficial to Meridian Township, its citizens, and its natural environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN extends its best wishes to Chanelle Russ and expresses its gratitude for her service to the community.

ADOPTED:

YEAS: Jamie Hiller, Steve Thomas, Yu Man Lee, Chanelle Russ, Kris Parnell, Kendra Grassesschi.

NAYS: None

Resolution passed unanimously.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)

) ss

COUNTY OF INGHAM)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Chairperson of the Land Preservation Advisory Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Land Preservation Advisory Board on the 11th day of May, 2022.

Jamie Hiller, Chairperson

Land Preservation Advisory Board

8. OLD BUSINESS

A. Boundary Correction at Lake Lansing South Preserve

1. Board members and staff discuss moving forward with a boundary correction involving a neighboring property adjacent to the land preserve. The board agrees to have staff move forward with legalities and formal

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process for boundary correction, the cost of which will be incurred by the property owners.

VICE CHAIR STEVENS MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROCESS OF STAFF MOVING AHEAD WITH BOUNDARY CORRECTION AT LAKE LANSING SOUTH PRESERVE. Board Member Parnell seconded.

(CLOSED SESSION BEGINS)

VICE CHAIR STEVENS MOVED TO START THE CLOSED SESSION PORTION OF THE MEETING. Board Member Grassesschi seconded.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Ayes: Steve Thomas, Jamie Hiller, Yu Man Lee, Kendra Grassesschi, Kris Parnell, Chanelle Russ.

Nays: None.

B. (CLOSED SESSION BEGINS) Land Acquisition Update

1. Discussion of Parcel F & Parcel C

(CLOSED SESSION ENDS)

C. Priority areas for contractual land management

1. Expansion of invasive phragmites treatment and review of areas identified for management. Contracts for phragmites treatment will ensure consistent treatment plans, and cover large areas that staff are not able to manage.

Board members comments:

- i. Locations suggested to add to the list: near Dobie Road Bridge, specific areas at Davis-Foster Preserve.
- ii. A notice for invasive phragmites treatment, and time of year for treatment is suggested to send out to neighboring communities and publish on social media.

9. REPORTS

A. STAFF REPORT: Stewardship Coordinator, Emma Campbell

1. Updates on Meridian Conservation Corps efforts and 2022 Spring stewardship highlights
 - i. Removal of over a 1,000 pounds of trash from Central Meridian Uplands
 - ii. Removal of herbaceous invasive species from Legg Park, Harris Nature Center, Eastgate Park, and Hartrick Park
2. Upcoming projects: Central Park South Pond wetland buffer restoration (Eagle Scout Project), floating island installation at Central Park pond, and wet meadow at Marshall Park in fall
 - i. Unifying projects for the Wetland Restoration & Education Program

B. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Kendra Grassesschi

1. Wetland Restoration & Education Program updates
 - i. Davis Foster Preserve wetland feature in Meridian Prime Magazine

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- ii. Contractor Notice pertaining information to wetland ordinance in relation to landscape maintenance sent out to local landscaping companies
- iii. Currently working on a residential notice for landscaping
- C. PARK COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Mark Stephens
 - 1. Board Member Stephens absent.

10. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

- A. None.

11. OTHER MATTER AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

- A. Board member Grassesschi requests to have the Wetland Restoration & Education Program included in Old Business on the agenda to allow for monthly updates.
 - 1. Unifying projects for all boards and commissions that will aid in increased collaboration and communication between boards and commissions.
- B. Site visits for land acquisition parcels will be scheduled for June.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, June 8, 2022 at the Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, Michigan.

13. ADJOURNMENT

BOARD MEMBER LEE MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. Vice Chair Stevens seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Hiller adjourns the meeting at 8:16 pm.