

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
Meridian Municipal Building – Town Hall Room
July 6, 2016 - APPROVED**

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Chair McConnell, Commissioners Sarver, Holland, Kielbaso and Masten

ABSENT: Vice-Chair Schools, Commissioners Dickmann and Jackson

STAFF: Harmony Gmazel, AICP, Associate Planner

OTHERS: LuAnn Maisner, Director, Meridian Township Parks & Recreation Department. Jane Greenway, Landscape Architect, Township Parks & Recreation Department. John McCann, Viridis Design Group.

1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER

Chair McConnell called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

Approved by consent without objection.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF JUNE 1, 2016 WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING MINUTES.

Motion to approve offered by Commissioner Kielbaso, Seconded by Sarver. Motion approved unanimously.

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

None

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair McConnell announced that he attended work sessions of the Planning Commission pertaining to the Master Plan Update. Chair McConnell also recommended that the Commission develop a metric to measuring the success of recent wetland mitigation projects in the Township.

6. STAFF REPORT

H.Gmazel introduced Ben Holland, the new Commissioner and reported on the recent *Planning for Climate Change* workshop, hosted by the Land Information Access Association (LIAA) that she attended.

7. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Land Preservation: J. Kielbaso reported that the Board is hosting site visits at their properties this fall. The schedule includes Towar Woods on July 13 at 6pm; Aug 9 at the SW Meridian Uplands; and Sept 13 at the Lake Lansing North Park.

Energy Team: J. Sarver reported that the Energy Team met at the Energy Fair at the Ingham County Fairgrounds in June. The Climate Action Plan is still underway with a few chapters underway. The Team is discussing the promotion

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solar investment in public buildings.

8. ACTION ITEM: WETLAND USE PERMIT #16-03 (TOWNER ROAD PARK)

Ms. Greenway and Mr. McCann presented the site plan and proposal for a new paved trail and boardwalk within Towner Road Park including the following details:

- Construct an 8-foot wide, 27 foot long timber boardwalk set on helical piers above Wetland C. the boardwalk is part of a paved walking path that will allow barrier-free access around the perimeter of the western baseball field and the two soccer fields. Piers will be driven into the ground with equipment located outside the wetland. Pier shafts are approximately 1.50 inches square.
- Route stormwater overflow from three detention basins into Township regulated wetlands.
 - Basin 2 into Wetland A, a 0.43 acre depressional wetland containing an emergent plant community, located at the north end of the site. The Township determined this wetland provides flood and storm control by its hydrologic absorption and storage capacity, wildlife habitat, and pollution treatment.
 - Basin 3 into Wetland C, located at the southeast end of the site and associated with Township Wetland 4-24 (0.92 acre) and 3-6C (100.32 acre). In addition, overflow from Basin 1 will be discharged into Basin 3, and may be ultimately discharged into Wetland C.
 - Basin 4 into Wetland E, located at the southwest end of the site. Wetland E is part of a large wetland complex that extends to the south (Township Wetland 4-22). This wetland is an approximately 47.75 acre emergent, scrub-shrub, forested wetland complex that contains the Costigan Drain.

The Commission was generally in support of the proposal. Commissioners commented that the detention basin should be labeled as a 'bioswale' in order to more accurately describe the structure. A seed list for the post-construction phase was also recommended. Staff member Gmazel will create a memo for the Planning Director that reflects the comments of the hearing as part of the WUP approval process.

9. PUBLIC REMARKS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Chair McConnell, approved by consent without objection at 7:44 p.m.