



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Township Service Center
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court | Haslett, MI
Wednesday, January 8, 2025, 6 PM

PRESENT: Board Members: Jamie Hiller, Steve Thomas, Kris Parnell, Kathy Fay, Yu Man Lee.
ABSENT: Mark Stephens.
STAFF: Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator
TOWNSHIP: Township Clerk, Angela Demas

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Hiller called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. Nicholas Holzwart
 - i. A local community member who is interested in hearing what the Land Preservation Advisory Board does and how they operate.
- b. Wayne Beyeau
 - i. 5273 Meridian Rd., Okemos MI
 - ii. A Township resident who is recommending their currently owned parcel to the Land Preservation Advisory Board for acquisition. Mr. Beyeau has provided documents with information about the parcel and will stay for Discussion Item 7A to answer any questions board members may have.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

- a. January 8, 2025

Board member Lee moved to approve the January 8, 2025 Agenda to place on file. Board member Parnell seconded.

Voice vote: Unanimous

4. APPROVE MINUTES

- a. November 13, 2024

Board Member Parnell makes a motion to place the November 13, 2024 minutes on file. Board Member Stephens seconded.

Voice vote: Unanimous

5. COMMUNICATIONS

- a. None.

6. ACTION ITEMS

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- a. 2025 Meeting Resolution
 - i. see Exhibit A

Board member Stephens moved to amend the Meeting Resolution to adjust June 11 to June 12, 2025. Kathy Fay seconded.

Roll call:

Ayes: Jamie Hiller, Steve Thomas, Yu Man Lee, Kathy Fay, Kris Parnell, Angela Demas.

Nays: None.

Board member Parnell moved to approve the amended Meeting Resolution and place on file. Fay seconded.

Roll Call:

Ayes: Jamie Hiller, Steve Thomas, Yu Man Lee, Kathy Fay, Kris Parnell, Angela Demas.

Nays: None.

- b. 2025 Election of Officers
 - i. See Exhibit B

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Parcels for Acquisition Consideration

i. Parcel A

1. Board advises staff to do a site visit prior to the March 12 meeting to get an initial sense of the ecological value of the recommended parcel.
2. Mr. Beyeau gave a brief summary of the property, during public comment. The board and staff have written permission from Mr. Beyeau to enter the property for a site visit. He wishes this land to be preserved and views it as a beneficial addition to our Land Preservation Program.

ii. Parcel B

1. Vacant parcel currently for sale directly adjacent and adjoining Mandenberg Woods Preserve. Parcel B is 1.94 acres and is listed for \$94,000 on Zillow.
2. Board advises staff will check out the property as much as possible and get back to the board before a letter of interest is sent.

iii. Parcel C

1. Letter of interest and acquisition application was sent to landowners.

b. Acquisition Prioritization

- i. All board members will be participating in a discussion throughout 2025, which will outline the prioritization process for any future land preserve acquisitions as we move forward with a land management focus for all current and future preserves.
- ii. Staff will bring more information to the March meeting.

8. REPORTS

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- a. STAFF REPORT: Stewardship Coordinator, Emma Campbell
 - i. Update on current preservation projects and issues
 1. Financial Statement
 - a. Reserve fund (218) is not accessible to the board
 - b. Land Acquisition Fund (217) is accessible to the board for acquisition
 - c. Land Preservation Millage (217) is accessible to staff for management activities and staff salaries
 - ii. 2025 Land Preservation Program Goals
 1. See Exhibit C
 - iii. MCC January Stewardship Calendar
 - b. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT: Commissioner Yu Man Lee
 - i. The EC is currently working on updating the Greenspace Plan for the Township
 - ii. Commissioner Lee suggests that the Land Preservation Advisory Board plan to assist EC on developing the updates and recommendations for the plan.
 - c. PARK COMMISSION REPORT: Commissioner Mark Stephens
 - i. Commissioner Stephens provides an update from the meeting of the Lake Lansing Advisory Board; the drain office did widen and open up the culverts at Pike Crossing and Lake Lansing to allow for easier navigation for fish like pike.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. None.

10. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

- a. Township Clerk Angela Demas would like to announce that Timothy Dempsey will be starting on January 27th, 2025 as the new Township Manager.
- b. Clerk Demas communicates to the board that the Ingham County Drain Office will be utilizing the Inter Urban Wetland Preserve as one of the options that was discussed at the November 2024 meeting.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 6 pm at the Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Okemos, Michigan 48864.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Board member Fay moves to adjourn the meeting. Board member Parnell seconded.

Chair Hiller adjourned the meeting at 8:28 pm.