

## Environmental Commission Minutes: October 3, 2018 (draft)

1. ATTENDING: John Sarver, Bill McConnell, Kurt Lapham, LeRoy Harvey (staff), David Premoe (Planning Commission), Aparna Krishnamurthy (Okemos Action, Interested Commissioner)
2. MEETING Called to order at 7 PM by Chair McConnell
3. GREEN THEME: **Solar Meridian Project** , Roger Eberhardt, Meridian Energy Team. See the presentation at <http://meridianmi.swagit.com/play/10032018-1685>
4. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. **Green Community Recognition:** A press release was recently distributed about this recognition. Harvey mentioned that the Environmental Commission has had much to do with the environmental reputation of Meridian Twp. He also invited some brainstorming about how to respond to a Trustee's request to better elevate awareness about our eco-friendly community (and the recognition/award). Chair McConnell suggested reviewing the checklist. Harvey will meet with the Communications Director on Friday to discuss further.
2. OLD BUSINESS
  - A. **Commissioner Nominations:** <http://bit.ly/commission-app>  
Aparna Krishnamurthy introduced herself and gave a report on the recent recycling event, to which she helped recruit half of the volunteers (40+). She is interested in applying and serving as the a Student Rep. to the Commission. McConnell mentioned Dave Chapman (instructor
  - B. **Wetland Ordinance Revisions**  
Elise Tripp's recommendations were added to the current Ordinance draft, in the [October Packet](#). There is interest in determining if other local governments have done "local" wetland banking projects. McConnell suggests a separate work session to discuss further revisions. Lapham and McConnell mention further discussion of "essentiality" and "internal" wetland banking. McConnell asks if other Townships have used internal wetland banking and how we might satisfy State compliance.
  - C. **PAH memo**  
Ned had some comments that were integrated in to the latest version. McConnell will sign the memo and we'll pass on to the Staff and the Board.
8. REPORTS & UPDATES
  - A. CHAIR: McConnell recently purchased a solar panel to power an electric fence. He's hoping that we can all find opportunities to use renewable energy.
  - B. COMMISSION/LIASON/WORKGROUP REPORTS
    - A. **Planning:** Dave Premoe mentions that the Planning commission is reviewing their goals and priorities. The Okemos Rd. bridge project is moving forward. It will be an opportunity to preserve wetlands, connect pathways, and view wetlands. This project will be paid for largely by a grant. Also strategizing on form-based code and how to move that forward. Downtown Okemos is a big project that may be impacted by FBC. FBC will hopefully simplify procedures. Chair McConnell mentions that our prior Green Theme presentation by Brent Forsberg, a developer, revealed some approaches that might be relevant to the evolution and development of FBC. McConnell asked if there were future public discussions planned about FBC. Premoe agreed that a dialogue with builders and developers could be fruitful. He also mentions Lansing's FBC progress – in relation to the Grand River Corridor – and the regional relevance. The Corridor Improvement Authority could be a good

venue. Premoe is optimistic that developers and projects will benefit from greater clarity, streamline approval, and flexibility in achieving desired outcomes.

- B. **Energy:** Sarver reports that there has been good participation in the Solarize Meridian Workshops. People are asking good questions and seem interested in “solarizing” their homes. He also mentions that we will be getting some help on our 100% Township Renewable Energy goal from Consumers Energy who is committed to 40% renewables by 2035. He also mentions that energy efficiency will also be an important part of reaching our goal. The Energy Team is also exploring alternatives to reaching the 100%
- C. **Land Preservation:** Kelsey Dillon shared a written update about the Nemoke Project (pasted below). LeRoy also mentioned the recent article in “Prime Meridian” describing “preserves.”
- D. **Green Team:** Aparna provided an update earlier on the Recent Recycling Event.

C. STAFF: See the packet [October Packet](#)

9. PUBLIC REMARKS: No additional public remarks.

10. ADJOURN: Sarver motioned to Adjourn.