

# CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN

## LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

### Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 9, 2011

7:00 p.m. Meridian Service Center

**Members Present:** Tom Woiwode Chair; Members Dave Caszatt, Frank Hatfield, Margo Smith

**Members Absent:** Mary Helmbrecht, Mark Stephens, Steve Webster, Jim Kielbaso

**Staff:** Jane Greenway, Parks and Land Management Coordinator

**Public Present:** Willis Bennett, Pat Witte, Laurie Kaufman, Leslie Kuhn, David Mindell, Joel Holland, Bryan Holland, Mark Mandenberg

### **1. Call meeting to Order**

Chair Woiwode called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm., Land Manager Greenway requested the following items be moved up on the agenda: 5.a, Presentation, Joel Holland, Eagle Scout candidate and 8.b., Leslie Kuhn, Pat Witte, Lake Lansing North Stewardship Plan and Prescribed Burn Presentation from David Mindell. Hearing no objections, Chair Woiwode accepted the changes to the agenda and moved item 5.a. and 8.b., Deer Management to the next item on the agenda.

### **3. Approve Minutes for September 14, 2011**

There was not a quorum; therefore, the minutes could not be approved.

### **5. Presentations (taken out of order)**

#### **a. Joel Holland, Eagle Scout candidate**

Joel gave a presentation on his Eagle Scout project that was performed in the Red Cedar Glen Land Preserve. Joel and other volunteers demolished the out-buildings on the land preserve. The project took two-three days total and 15-20 neighbors, fellow scouts, and parents assisted with the project.

**b. LPAB Comments**

1. LPAB members thanked Joel for his hard work, and stated that the ambiance of the land preserve is much nicer now that the old farm buildings have been removed.
2. LPAB members asked Joel to spread the word to other scouts about the land preserve program's need for additional community projects.

**8. Old Business (taken out of order)**

**a. Terms of office**

The discussion relative to terms of office for LPAB members was deferred to the December 14, 2011 meeting.

**b. Lake Lansing North – Stewardship Plan, proposed prescribed burn, Leslie Kuhn, Pat Witte, and David Mindell**

1. Pat Witte, Ingham County Parks Manager, and Leslie Kuhn, Mid-Michigan Stewardship Initiative Head Coordinator, presented the draft stewardship plan for the 120-acre portion of Lake Lansing North. The land preservation program has a conservation easement over the 120-acre portion of the park, formally acquired by Ingham County Parks in 2010.

Highlights of the stewardship plan include:

- An inventory and analysis of natural features found on the property. This information was contributed by numerous local experts.
  - Natural data recorded indicated that the variety and number of species found in the 120-acre portion of the park are unique and indicate that the property is highly significant on a statewide level.
  - Comprehensive botanical information collected included a total of 660 species/subspecies of vascular plants on the property. The property is identified as a "hotspot" of biodiversity in the state.
  - There are widespread invasive species on the site that need to be managed.
  - The park's deer population needs to be managed.
  - Many other specific details regarding the natural features are included in the plan.
2. Management recommendations in the stewardship plan include the management of invasive species, management of deer population, and prescribed ecological burns to enhance biodiversity and to control invasive species.

**c. David Mindell, Plantwise**

- David Mindell presented information relative to prescribed burns in natural areas.
- David noted that Lake Lansing North's floristic quality is stunning and that he has only seen one or two sites with as high of a score in his 18 year career.
- The goal of a prescribed burn in Lake Lansing North park is to increase the light reaching the forest floor by controlling the invasive red maple saplings.
- March or April would be the ideal time for a prescribed burn. The price to burn the park would be approximately \$6000. LPAB would need to commit by February 2012.
- David will email Jane Greenway his pdf of the prescribed burn presentation to Jane and she will share the information with LPAB members who were absent at the November 9, 2011 meeting.

**LPAB comments**

1. Tom Woiwode stated that the Lake Lansing North acquisition is a great cooperation between Ingham County, Meridian Township, and the land stewards. Feels that it is incumbent upon us to preserve Meridian Township's best properties.

**11. Closed Session (taken out of order)**

Because there was not a quorum, no motion was made to enter into closed session. However, the LPAB informally entered closed session to discuss the possible purchase of real estate.

9:00 p.m. Return to Open Session.

**9. Other (taken out of order)**

**a. Margo Smith – Expert guest speaker suggestion**

1. LPAB member Margo Smith requested that future meetings include expert guest speakers for the purpose of better educating LPAB members for property evaluations.
  2. LPAB suggested inviting a representative from the Michigan Natural Features Inventory to give a short presentation on how to evaluate wetlands. Another suggestion was to invite Jordan Burroughs (MSU, deer management) to a meeting.
- b. Frank Hatfield requested a copy of the groundwater recharge map for the township.
- c. Frank Hatfield shared that he met with the Sylvan Glen Homeowners Association, and they expressed concern about the Red Cedar Glen Preserve, relative to the high number of bicyclists, unleashed dogs, parking problems, and littering.

**6. Land Management Update (taken out of order)**

**A. Jane Greenway, Land Manager**

**1. Invasive Species Treatment**

- a. Davis-Foster Preserve – Nick Sanchez, Ingham Co.
- b. Towner Road Wetland – still waiting on approval from homeowner
- c. Northwest Preserve – Dave Caszatt and volunteers

**2. Sower Woods Land Preserve – Informational Sign**

- a. Waiting on additional biographical information from the Sower family and also for interpretive information, from Harris Nature Center staff

**3. Davis/Foster Preserve**

- a. Met with David Mindell from PlantWise to discuss burn program for 2012 (will be partly reimbursed by WHIP grant). Also plan to treat invasives with herbicide.

**4. Deer Management Plan**

- a. Over twenty hunters are participating in the managed deer harvest. There are seven township properties that are being hunted; including five land preserves and one park.

**12. Adjournment**

Hearing no objection, Chair Woiwode adjourned the meeting at 9:35 pm.