

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION AGENDA
Wednesday, September 4, 2013
Town Hall Room
Meridian Municipal Building
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864**

WorkSession

1. Call the work session to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. Approval of the work session agenda
3. Review of the minutes of the July 17, 2013 work session/regular meeting
4. Public remarks
5. Adjournment

Regular Meeting

1. Call the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Approval of the regular meeting agenda
3. Approval of the minutes of the July 17, 2013, work session/regular meeting
4. Green Themes presentation by Amy Moore of Ingham County on "Tobacco-free Park Policies"
5. Public remarks
6. Chair's Report
7. Communications/staff report
 - a. Update on Green Theme speakers for the fall
8. Other Business
 - a. Resolution of appreciation to Commissioner Donahue
9. Study groups/liaison reports
10. Public remarks
11. Adjournment

WORK SESSION

PRESENT: Vice-Chair Thomas and Commissioners Kielbaso, Scherbarth, Searl, and Moran (6:35).

ABSENT: Chair Jackson, Commissioner Donahue and Student Commissioners Stanley and Martell.

STAFF

PRESENT: Richard F. Brown, Jr., AICP, Associate Planner

OTHERS

PRESENT: None

1. **CALL WORK SESSION TO ORDER**

Vice-Chair Thomas called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE WORK SESSION AGENDA**

The Work Session agenda was approved without objection.

3. **REVIEW OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 5, 2013 WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING**

No corrections were noted.

4. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Brief discussion on potential Green Theme speakers for the fall.

5. **PUBLIC REMARKS**

None

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

Work session adjourned without objection at 6:52 p.m.

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
Meridian Municipal Building
July 17, 2013 - draft**

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Vice-Chair Thomas and Commissioners Moran, Scherbarth, Searl, and Kielbaso.

ABSENT: Chair Jackson, Commissioner Donahue, and Student Commissioners Martell and Stanley.

STAFF

PRESENT: Richard F. Brown, Jr., AICP, CBSP Associate Planner

OTHERS

PRESENT: William Conklin of the Ingham County Department of Transportation & Roads

1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

- **MOTION** by Commissioner Moran to approve the agenda. Supported by Commissioner Scherbarth. Approved 5-0.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 5, 2013 WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

- **MOTION** by Commissioner Scherbarth to approve the minutes with corrections. Supported by Commissioner Kielbaso. Approved 5-0.

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

None.

5. CHAIR'S REPORT

Vice-Chair Thomas had no report.

6. COMMUNICATIONS/STAFF REPORT

Associate Planner Brown summarized the following:

- 2013 Smart Commute summary
- Wetland Committee report on Wetland Use Permit #13-01
- Environmental Consultant report on Wetland Use Permit #13-01

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Vice-Chair Thomas summarized the review status of Wetland Use Permit #13-01. There are

wetland impacts along the entire length of the Cornell Road project, particularly if the shoulders are widened. A general discussion took place on the proposed wetland impacts, as well as a number of questions to managing Director Bill Conklin, which he responded to. Two options are under consideration by the Township Board – one comprehensive and one more limited in scope. The final determination on which will be employed is up to the Township Board.

The consistently measured travel speed along the corridor was in the 45 mph to 50 mph range – therefore it is unlikely the speed limit will be reduced.

Commissioners expressed concerns about the lack of a mitigation plan, a proposed site for the mitigation, and the lack of a soil erosion and sedimentation control plan. Mr. Conklin indicated that all of their final plans will have Michigan Department of Transportation standard soil erosion plans included.

There was some confusion over who is the applicant and who is the project manager – Ingham County or the Township. Ingham County is listed as the applicant, but Mr. Conklin indicated Public Works Director Severy is the project manager.

A general discussion took place on potential wetland mitigation sites, including the Tihart/Cornell Wetland Preservation site and the Davis Farm on Van Atta Road. Also, there was a conversation on the timing for completion of each option in 2013.

Following the discussion with Mr. Conklin, there was a discussion amongst the Commissioners on how to proceed and what recommendation to make to the Planning Commission. A discussion also occurred on how best to include the comments and observations of the Wetland Committee.

- **MOTION** by Commissioner Scherbarth to recommend denial of Wetland Use Permit #13-01 (Ingham County) due to an incomplete application, the lack of a specific location for wetland mitigation, and the lack of a soil erosion plan.

Furthermore, based on the Wetland Committee's review of submitted materials and an on-site visit, the Environmental Commission has the following observations and concerns about the project/permit (see attached memorandum). Supported by Commissioner Kielbaso. Motion approved 5-0.

8. **STUDY GROUPS/LIAISON REPORTS**

None

9. **PUBLIC REMARKS**

None

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

- **MOTION** by Commissioner Scherbarth to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Supported by Commissioner Kielbaso. Approved 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

August 22, 2013

James E. Jackson
Department of Chemistry
Michigan State University
578 S. Shaw Lane, Room 513
East Lansing, MI 48824-1322

Dear Ned:

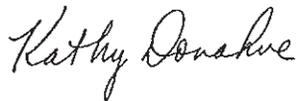
Please accept this letter as formal notification of my resignation from the Environmental Commission.

As of September 1, 2013 I will no longer be able to fulfill my role due to personal reasons.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the Commission where I was able to work side by side with extremely talented people who are committed to preserving the environment within Meridian Charter Township.

Please let me know if I can assist in any way towards a smooth transition.

Sincerely,



Kathy Donahue
2221 Burcham Drive
East Lansing, MI 48823
c (517) 230-3545

cc: Richard F. Brown, Jr., AICP, CBSP
Mark Kieselbach
Brett Dreyfus

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

At a regular meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held on the 4th day of September 2013, at 7:00 p.m., local time.

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner _____ and supported by Commissioner _____.

WHEREAS, Kathy Donahue served as an active member of the Environmental Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian from January ____ through September 2013; and

WHEREAS, Kathy Donahue has been a tireless contributor to the Environmental Commission, by participating in numerous wetland permit site visits, by providing valuable feedback on proposed projects, and by carefully proofreading the minutes and correspondence of the Commission; and

WHEREAS, it is impossible for staff or her fellow commissioners to adequately express how important Kathy Donahue's contribution has been to the Environmental Commission during her term; and

WHEREAS, Kathy Donahue devoted much of her personal time and energy educating the general public and staff on important environmental issues, while also actively participating in volunteers events; and

WHEREAS, Kathy Donahue's service on the Environmental Commission has been exemplary to the Charter Township of Meridian, its residents, and its natural environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN HEREBY extends its very best wishes to Kathy Donahue in her future endeavors and expresses its profound gratitude for her superior service to the community.

ADOPTED: YEAS:

NAYS: None

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)ss
COUNTY OF INGHAM)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Chairperson of the Environmental Commission 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 Environmental Commission on the 4th day of September, 2013.

James E. Jackson, Chairperson
Environmental Commission