



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
March 6, 2024 7 pm

Town Hall Meeting Room, 5151 Marsh Rd, Okemos

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. PUBLIC REMARKS
3. CHANGES TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
5. NEW BUSINESS
6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
7. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Staff, Liaisons, Teams (Energy, Green, Food, Green Burial, etc.), Okemos Earth Club, invited to share updates.

Staff update: <https://sites.google.com/view/staff-update/home>

8. PUBLIC REMARKS
9. ADJOURNMENT

Environmental Commission (EC) Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2024 - Draft

Attending: Bill McConnell (Chair), Anna Colby (Vice Chair), Graham Diedrich, Tom Frazier, Andrea Paul, Yu Man Lee, Amelia Saffron, John Sarver, and LeRoy Harvey (Staff).

Agenda: McConnell offered amendments adding Resolutions of Appreciation, Liaison appointments, and Green Theme presentations.

Minutes: Approved

New Business

Resolutions of Appreciation for Ned Jackson and Kendra Grasseschi were read and unanimously approved.

Appointment of Liaisons: McConnell mentioned the need to make decisions about appointments to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (BRA) and Land Preservation Advisory Board. There is interested in learning about the meeting schedule of the BRA. Commissioners are invited to consider this role. LeRoy added that it's an opportunity to work with Frank Walsh, Twp. Manager. *(Staff adds: Lee was appointed as the new LPAB liaison as she is already a member of the that committee.)*

Green Presentations: In the past, "Green Theme Presentations" have occasionally been offered before EC meetings as a way to learn about topics of interest. McConnell invites each of us to share one suggestion. Sarver mentioned that the Master Plan would be a good topic.

Unfinished Business

Composting Ordinance: Frazier offered potential wording changes related to our Nuisance Ordinance to allow composting. McConnell suggests that there are other changes as well

Staff Update: Harvey briefly highlighted items in a staff update located at <http://bit.ly/update-leroy> including Green Dialogues, Green Grants, Energy Grants, and additional resources that could be useful to new EC members. Harvey will follow-up with more information about additional funding related to our Climate Sustainability Plan.

Energy Team – Sarver provided an overview of the Energy Team and updates. The Assessor's Office has provided updated information about solar installations. 32 solar systems were installed last year in the Township. There is total of 157 systems currently installed. There will be a lunch meeting of local governments in the Town Hall on February 29th to discuss regional energy initiatives. It is hoped that four regional Solarize workshops will begin on April 1 at the Town Hall. Williamstown Township will follow on May 21. Other workshops may follow hopefully in Lansing and East Lansing. This is the 3rd year of Solarize.

Green Team – is a core group of volunteers that help organize "green" events including two major recycling events in the spring and fall. The Green Team is also working on other events such as the Green Fashion Show on March 16th. Diedrich is a member of the STEM Ambassadors Program at MSU

which focuses on community engagement and citizen science. He is planning an interactive solar activity in conjunction with the Fashion show. Absolute Solar will be on hand with solar information.

Okemos High School: Saffron mentioned several activities happening including the Sustainable Fashion Show, Regional Project Prom (Clothing Swap), a potential Electronics Recycling Event, and student greenhouse clean-up.

Land Preservation Advisory Board (LPAB): Lee mentioned that the LPAB has not met in a couple months.

Food Committee: Colby mentioned that the Food to Compost Team has not met in a while. She invites participation from other the E.C. members. Valerie Lafferty has been working on a regional Food Rescue initiative. Gleaning will start up again in the spring. Colby is on the Steering Committee of the Good Food Charter. There are some state-level initiatives including legislation to support Cottage Food Businesses. Another is the 10cents/meal program to support locally sourced food in school lunches. There are USDA grants available to underserved school systems to support healthy food options. McConnell reports that the gleaning initiative has expanded through a partnership with Food Rescue – a national program. (Staff adds: <https://foodrescue.us/>). Harvey reports that the food scrap collection at the Marketplace on the Green is continuing through the winter and at the Recycling Center.

Planning Commission: Mc provided an overview of the [Master Plan](#) (also linked in Feb Staff Update) which was approved at the Township Trustee meeting last night. He suggests we might consider reviewing several section for potential collaboration through study groups. It a five-year plan so it doesn't all have to happen this year.

Sarver asked about the connections between the Pathway Plan and the bicycle/pedestrian plan. McConnell mentioned that the Pathway Plan is currently a map. He mentioned that staff have applied for Bicycle-Friendly Community Status and suggests that anyone who's interested in the Transportation Commission might contact Planner Brian Shorkey. They meet 3-4 times per year. They've also provided input on road conversions. There has also been discussion about an informal, as-needed "Transportation Committee."

Lee asked about a timeline for the Master Plan such as the wetland and land preservation acquisition so that we might time our input more effectively. McConnell mentioned that the EC might consider a plan for the year and that the Planning Commission may have a more detailed timeline in the future.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:56pm

Recording available at <https://meridianmi.new.swagit.com/videos/296836>

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION: Kendra Grasseschi

At a regular meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held on the 7th day of February, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.,

PRESENT: Bill McConnell (Chair), Anna Colby (Vice Chair), Graham Diedrich, Tom Frazier, Andrea Paul, Yu Man Lee, Amelia Saffron, John Sarver, and LeRoy Harvey

ABSENT: None

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner Colby and supported by unanimously.

WHEREAS, Kendra Grasseschi has served on the Environmental Commission since 2021; and

WHEREAS, Kendra Grasseschi has assisted in developing Meridian’s Climate Sustainability Plan; and

WHEREAS, Kendra was instrumental in launching and leading the Wetland Education Team; and

WHEREAS, Kendra has participated in Meridian’s Green Grant Review Team; and

WHEREAS, Kendra has helped restore our local ecosystem by planting native species and removing invasive species; and

WHEREAS, Kendra has regularly helped with Meridian Conservation Corps events, and

WHEREAS, Kendra’s has helped to inspire and develop the Build Back the Buffer Campaign and create a wetland brochure, wetland signage, and contractor mailing; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN as follows:

The Environmental Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian, by means of resolution, extends to Kendra Grasseschi grateful thanks for her voluntary and exemplary efforts.

ADOPTED: YEAS: Unanimous

NAYS: _____

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)ss
COUNTY OF INGHAM)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified 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 7th day of February, 2024.

William McConnell, Chair

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION: Ned Jackson

At a regular meeting of the Environmental Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held on the 7th day of February, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.,

PRESENT: Bill McConnell (Chair), Anna Colby (Vice Chair), Graham Diedrich, Tom Frazier, Andrea Paul, Yu Man Lee, Amelia Saffron, John Sarver, and LeRoy Harvey

ABSENT: None

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner McConnell.

WHEREAS, Ned Jackson has been an active steward of both public and private land in Meridian Township for decades; and

WHEREAS, Ned has served on the Environmental Commission since 2006; and

WHEREAS, Ned has helped shape Meridian’s policies to protect against pollution and support alternatives to phosphorous and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in coal tar-based asphalt sealants; and

WHEREAS, Ned has been an advocate for bicycling, trails, public transportation, and non-motorized transportation; and

WHEREAS, Ned has been a regular volunteer at recycling events for over a decade; and

WHEREAS, Ned has helped develop Meridian’s Climate Sustainability Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN as follows:

The Environmental Commission of the Charter Township of Meridian, by means of resolution, extends to Ned Jackson grateful thanks for his voluntary and exemplary efforts.

ADOPTED: YEAS: unanimous

NAYS: _____

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)ss
COUNTY OF INGHAM)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified 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 7th day of February, 2024.

William McConnell, Chair