

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 2013
7PM – LAKE LANSING NORTH PARK

Members Present: Julie Brixie, Frank Hatfield, James Kielbaso, Jon Mayes, Robert Rusch, Margo Smith, Steve Webster,

Members Absent: Marks Stephens

Staff: Land and Management Coordinator Jane Greenway;

Others: Nick Sanchez, Leslie Kuhn, Jim Hewitt

The site visit began at 7 at Lake Lansing North Park.

Summary of the walk at the park:

Leslie Kuhn discussed history of park, Liberty Hyde Bailey, (father of horticulture), collected plants that are still in MSU herbarium. The area that was walked was acquired with a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund acquisition grant with many local donations and also financial contribution from Land Preservation Advisory Board (LPAB). Former state biologist Chris Reidy spent two years inventorying every plant in the park and he identified 600 identified plants including several orchids. There are a total of 1,800 identified species of plants in MI, so 600 plants is quite significant.

Jim Hewitt presented deer-resistant garden that the LPAB funded in 2012, it is being maintained beautifully by volunteers and Ingham County Park staff. There is an interpretive sign that describes the garden. LPAB member Margo Smith helps maintain the garden. It is located near the neighborhood entrance off Ginger Trail. There is also a LPAB/Ingham County Parks interpretive sign that is near the deer-resistant garden.

Leslie Kuhn talked about prescribed burn that was conducted in April 2012 to treat the invasive red maples. The burn will be done again in 2014. Oak hickory forests are fire dependent. The intention is to obtain more sunlight for the struggling oaks.

The group also visited the deer enclosures and learned that the plants within the enclosure are on average 16" higher than outside the fence. Ingham County also planted oaks outside and inside the fence, and the outside ones were browsed.

Nick Sanchez discussed the restored area that was recently planted by Murphy Elementary students. It's growing well due to the wet spring and summer. The area was formerly quite thick with autumn olive. Nick Sanchez cleared the autumn olive and the Murphy kids grew and then planted native grasses and forbs.

The site visit ended at 8:45 pm.