



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING
December 4 2019 6:30 pm

1. WORK SESSION: 6:30 PM
 2. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:00 PM
 3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
 4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
 5. PUBLIC REMARKS
 6. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Climate Sustainability Report
 - B. Commissioner Appointment/Reappointment(s)
 - C. Other
 7. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Wetland Bank
 - B. Coal Tar-based Pavement Memo
 - C. Climate Emergency Resolution
 - D. Other
 8. CHAIR'S REPORT
 9. STAFF REPORT
 10. COMMISSION/LIASON/WORKGROUP REPORTS
 - A. Planning
 - B. Land Preservation
 - C. Energy
 - D. Brownfield Redevelopment Authority
 - E. Green Team
 - F. Transportation
 11. PUBLIC REMARKS
 12. ADJOURNMENT
-

All comments limited to 3 minutes, unless prior approval for additional time for good cause is obtained from the Supervisor.
Appointment of Supervisor Pro Tem and/ or Temporary Clerk if necessary.

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Meridian Township Board by contacting:
Township Manager Frank L. Walsh, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 or 517.853.4258 - Ten Day Notice is Required.
Meeting Location: 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 Township Hall



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 5151 MARSH RD, OKEMOS
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6 2019 7:00 PM

PRESENT: Chair, Bill McConnell; Vice Chair, Ned Jackson; Commissioner, John Sarver; Commissioner, Aparna Krishnamurthy; Commissioner, Jim Kielbaso; Commissioner Kirk Lapham;

STAFF: Phil Deschaine, Treasurer; LeRoy Harvey, Environmental Programs Coordinator; HOMTV Interns and Staff

GUESTS: Susan Andrews, Rose Vadnais, Juliana Boblitz

Green Theme Presentation: "What Not To Flush Down the Toilet" with Susan Masten. Masten provided a comprehensive overview of items that should generally not be put down the drain (fats, oils, grease, medicines, wipes, dental floss, food, sump discharge, etc.) View her Powerpoint Presentation [here](#) or visit the live broadcast [here](#).

Minutes: Minutes from September and October meetings were approved.

Public Comments: Rose Vadnais is new to the Township. She served on the East Lansing Commission on the Environment for three years and expressed interest both the Climate Sustainability Plan

New Business:

Green Infrastructure/Tree Planting Project: Treasurer Phil Deschaine shared ideas about a tree planting initiative which will be beneficial in many ways: climate stabilization, improving property values, creating a sense of hope, improving health, stormwater control, beautification, and more. He shared some examples of tree planting from Releaf Michigan. There is concern that tree cover in Michigan has declined 27% since 2007. He also mentions that a 50% canopy is recommended for suburban areas like Meridian. Partners might include neighborhoods, service clubs, Haslett Beautification, Garden Clubs Scouts, Parks Department, schools, etc. He offered to present a plan from the Environmental Commission to the Township Board. Kielbaso mentions that street trees are desirable to provide shade, cooling, and other benefits. He also cautions about the impact of deer. Krishnamurthy mentioned that Okemos High School "Action" has recently helped with planting in Meridian and would like to help again. About 30 students helped Kelsey Dillon/Parks plant 20ish trees on Central Park Dr. They also removed trash along Central Park. There is interest in developing a plan and researching this further including: purchase of seedlings (possibly soon), species selection, partnerships, sleeves to protect from deer, and other issues. April 26 is Arbor Day. Vadnais mentioned that pollinator-friendly (flowering, fruiting) trees are desirable. She also mentions that, parking lots are important targets because of run-off and shading.

Recognition of Commissioner Jackson: Deschaine mentioned that Ned was recently recognized as one of two Township Residents receiving a lifetime award for his service to the Township (over a decade on the Environmental Commission and other committees. See [pictures](#).

Old Business:

Wetland Banking: Lapham mentioned that the Land Preservation Board continues this discussion. He has heard from Mike Pennington (DNR) who provided the Land Pres. Staff with an overlay of former wetlands in the State. The LPB will review potential areas at their next meeting.

Green Team and Okemos Action: Harvey mentioned that the next Green Team Meeting will be held Nov 7 at 4:30pm at Schulers and will discuss the Fall Recycling Event, the Recycling Center, and Apartment Recycling. Krishnamurthy mentioned Okemos Action's recent tree planting and an offer to assist with other environmental initiatives.

Okemos Boardwalk Ribbon Cutting: Jackson mentioned the recent Okemos Overlook/Boardwalk completion as a major accomplishment toward walkability/bikability, completing a gap in the north-south connections.

Environmental Commission Opening: Commissioner Burkhardt has had to resign to spend more time with her mother. There is an opening on the Commission. Applications can be found [here](#).

Public Remarks: None

Meeting Adjourned: 8:40 pm.

Next Meeting: December 4th at 6:30 pm (Please send agenda items to harvey@meridian.mi.us)



To: Ron Styka, Township Supervisor
From: Derek Perry, Assistant Township Manager, Director of Public Works
Date: November 12, 2019
Re: Climate Emergency Resolution

Attached is a draft Climate Emergency Resolution prepared for the Meridian Township Board by the Meridian Environmental Commission (EC) and approved at its November 6, 2019 meeting. The EC encourages the Board to support this Resolution and reaffirm Meridian's commitment to climate sustainability.

In addition, Staff and the Environmental Commission are developing a report of progress on Meridian's Climate Sustainability Plan. The EC also wishes to extend appreciation of our Board's leadership in pursuing renewable energy and taking other steps to reduce greenhouse gasses, preserve our environment, and improving our sustainability and quality of life. On a related note, Meridian will be recognized at the Michigan Sustainability Conference next week!



CLIMATE EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Meridian Municipal Building, in said Township on the ____ day of _____, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. local time.

PRESENT: _____

ABSENT: _____

The following Resolution was offered by the Meridian Environmental Commission and supported by _____.

WHEREAS, on October 8, 2018, the United Nations released a special report that projected that limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius this century will require an unprecedented transformation of every sector of the global economy over the next 12 years; and

WHEREAS, on November 23, 2018, the U.S. Fourth National Climate Assessment was issued, which detailed the massive threat that climate change poses to the American economy and underscored the need for emergency climate action at all levels of government; and

WHEREAS, the impacts of climate change and ocean acidification include increasingly devastating wildfires, communities overwhelmed by smoke, drinking water compromised by algal blooms, a rise in sea levels resulting in flooding and the displacement of thousands of coastal businesses and residences, damage to marine ecosystems and food sources, extreme weather events, severe harm to this state’s agriculture, forestry and tourism industries, and introduction of new vectors for infectious disease, increased asthma and other human health-related problems; and

WHEREAS, climate change has a disproportionate effect on fish and wildlife populations, many of which require specific habitat conditions and are therefore particularly vulnerable to warmer temperatures, modified precipitation patterns, diminished snowpack, ocean acidification and other effects of climate change; and

WHEREAS, climate change and the global economy’s overshoot of ecological limits are driving the sixth mass extinction of species, causing a 60 percent decline in global wildlife populations since 1970, could devastate much of life on Earth for the next 10 million years and pose as great a risk to humanity as climate change, according to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services; and

WHEREAS, one million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction according to a sweeping new United Nations report (May 6 2019); and

WHEREAS, the death and destruction already wrought by global warming of approximately 1.1 degrees Celsius above late 19th century levels demonstrates that Earth is already too hot for safety and justice; and

WHEREAS, climate change has a disproportionate effect on impacted communities, such as indigenous tribes, rural communities, coastal communities, workers, low-income households and people of color, who typically have fewer resources for adapting to climate change and are therefore the most vulnerable to displacement, adverse health effects, job loss, property damage and other effects of climate change; and

WHEREAS, the world’s leading climate scientists, including those in the Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments Center, predict that these serious impacts of climate change will worsen if prompt action is not taken to curb emissions; and

WHEREAS, Our Children’s Trust May 9, 2019 press release, “Groundbreaking Report Shows the United States Can Lead the Way Toward Climate Recovery Without Economic Hardship – The Report Details the Technically and Economically Feasible Pathways for a U.S. Transition Off of Fossil Fuels...” is the first analysis completed in the United States to provide a detailed roadmap for placing all sectors of the U.S. energy system on an emissions path consistent with returning global atmospheric CO2 to 350 ppm by 2100, which means global heating of 1 degree Celsius, not 2;” and

WHEREAS, restoring a safe and stable climate requires a “climate mobilization” at all levels of government on a scale not seen since World War II to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, in the absence of effective federal engagement, it is the responsibility of the individual states, counties and cities deemed to be the laboratories of progress, to take immediate leadership actions to address climate change;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, we as members of the Meridian Township Board of Trustees, having adopted our own climate goals and policies to combat this climate emergency, will make it a priority to implement the township operations and community initiatives outlined in our Climate Sustainability Plan. Elected and appointed officials, boards and commissions, and staff shall consider Climate Change impacts and issues as they plan and implement various projects and activities.

ADOPTED: YEAS:
 NAYS:



To: Board Members
From: Derek Perry, Assistant Township Manager and Director of Public Works
Date:
Re: Coal Tar-Based Pavement Sealants

The Commission on the Environment invites you to consider prohibiting the use of certain pavement sealants in Meridian Township. Scientific studies on the use certain sealants (containing high levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons or PAHs), have demonstrated a relationship to certain health and environmental concerns, including increased cancer risk to humans and wildlife, and impaired water quality.

The Commission began seriously exploring this issue in early 2018. Rebecca Esselman, Executive Director of the Huron River Watershed Council, presented at a Green Theme Presentation in April, 2018 (See <http://meridianmi.swagit.com/play/04042018-870>). We have since contacted groups familiar with the issue including Michigan municipalities, sealcoat applicators, manufacturers, and others to share information and gather their perspectives.

Township staff decided to test the performance and availability of alternatives such as asphalt-based sealants. Stores like Home Depot, Menards, and Lowes only sell asphalt-based sealants. A request for proposals was issued, a contract awarded, and several parking lots were treated in 2019. Based upon this experience, along with the growing acceptance and affordability of alternatives, staff and Commissioners feel comfortable moving forward, joining 16 other Michigan Communities that also prohibit these sealants.

Attached is a brochure which describes the issue in greater detail. Also attached is a draft ordinance. Additional resources include:

- Bans: Ann Arbor <http://bit.ly/A2-BAN> Minnesota: <http://bit.ly/PAH-MN>
- The State of Michigan Proposed Legislation HB 5174: <http://bit.ly/PAH-MI>
- Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council: <http://bit.ly/pah-TIP>
- Washington DC Ban and Resource Page: <https://doee.dc.gov/coaltar>

Planning and Public Works staff have met to discuss ways to smoothly administer the ordinance. If we move forward, we currently envision requiring contractors to register with the Township at no cost, similar to the way we work with Sewer Contractors. An on-line application would include a list of types, PAH content, and CAS numbers of sealants to be applied.

Staff and the Environmental Commission invite your suggestions and support as we move forward. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.