



**AGENDA**  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
February 7, 2024 7 pm

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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, committees/teams, Okemos Earth Club, invited to share updates.

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

8. PUBLIC REMARKS
9. ADJOURNMENT

## Environmental Commission Meeting: December 6, 2023 (DRAFT)

**Attending:** McConnell, Colby, Grasseschi, Sarver, Saffron, Frazier, Jackson, Harvey.

**Guests:** Lee, Paul, and Nahum

**Absent:** Wisinski, Diedrich

**Public Comments:** **Yu Man Lee** is in an applicant to the Environmental Commission (EC). She works as a Conservation Scientist with Michigan Natural Features Inventory/MSUE. She's very passionate about the environment. She has also been on the Land Preservation Advisory Board for about 8 years, helped with our Climate Sustainability Plan, helped map vernal pools, and has worked with statewide groups such as the MI Wetland Association and MI Nature Association. **Andrea Paul** is another applicant. She is a recent graduate from MSU in Fisheries and Wildlife and is interested in a job, networking, volunteering, and being on the EC. **Josh Nahum** is another applicant. He's a professor at MSU in Computer Science. He has a background in biology and is interested in getting more involved in the community. He has a particular interest in cycling infrastructure and has been attending Township meetings for the past couple months.

**Agenda and Minutes** Approved

**Environmental Commissioner Recommendations:** McConnell suggests that we comment on strengths of applicants that may be desirable. He offered an appreciation for the applicants' connections with and interest in MNFI, the Fisheries and Wildlife, and cycling. He also noted that there are other Commissions in need of appointees. Colby asked how many openings there are. Harvey indicated awareness of one regular position if Ned resigns and two student positions. McConnell and Grasseschi expressed interest in providing space. Sarver also mentioned the reappointment of new Trustee liaison as Wisinski is moving on to be Parks Director. Grasseschi would like to see the wetland work continue (buffer project, signage, wetland mailings, etc.) and continue if she moves on and supports candidates that will carry that torch to make the effort even bigger and better. Colby expressed an interest in a candidate with interest in food issues, hinting that Paul has volunteered with soup kitchens. She also echoed Grasseschi's sentiments. Jackson has enjoyed his 15 years on the Commission but now has additional family commitments. He also mentioned other avenues of involvement such as the Green Team and Green Dialogues. He's enjoyed his tenure on the EC and is excited about the level of interest. McConnell mentioned that we haven't seen a wetland application in a couple years. This has allowed the EC to focus in other areas such as green grants, energy, etc. McConnell offered to summarize the input received and share with Supervisor Jackson who makes the recommendations to the Trustees.

**Food Waste in Township Ordinances:** McConnell mentioned that our current ordinance outlaws practices such as composting. Frazier prepared and shared some potential changes (included in the [December packet](#)). Colby, Sarver, McConnell and Saffron offered some additional comments. Frazier will wordsmith further based on commissioner recommendations and prepare another version to share with the planning staff. There was general consensus to exempt items that are properly recycled / composted from the nuisance ordinance. Some commissioners feel that raising this with staff and the Board will also draw attention to the Climate Sustainability Plan and the food/composting/ recycling goals shared within it.

**Green Grants:** The green grant program description and application was included in the packet. The budget for green grants has doubled and there is a desire to begin promoting this to the community.

**Meeting Schedule:** The commission approved a meeting schedule of the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of the month in 2024, except for July 3. This was unanimously approved.

**EC Goals:** Harvey shared a prior draft of EC Goals. The Climate Sustainability Plan has served as a goal statement for the EC. McConnell suggests that we potentially review any items on the prior goal statement that may not be included in the CSP to add to our goals for 2024 – the primary goals being adoption and implementation of the CSP.

**Climate Sustainability Plan:** Commissioners are invited to share final edits by Dec. 15 before conversion to a “Flipsnack.”

**Staff Update:** Harvey highlighted the upcoming Green Dialogue speakers and the Green Grant Report.

**Energy Team:** Sarver shared a report on the Solarize Program. Four meetings were held this year with 99 attendees. Solar purchases expanded from 19 in 2022 to 32 in 2023. 153 KW to 247 KW. There were joint meetings with Williamstown Township and Lansing.

**Green Team:** Frazier shared an update on 2024 events. Diedrich is working on February energy event for youth.

**Wetland Education:** Grasseschi mentioned an overview of educational efforts including updates on the wetland page on the Township website, signage for residents and other areas, a Native guide, build back the buffer campaign, demonstration projects, and mailings to residents and contractors.

**Land Preservation:** Grasseschi mentioned that a property at Cornell and Sweetwood (approx. 5 acre parcel) is in the process of being purchased. The LPAB is also discussing land management plans for 2024.

**Brownfield Redevelopment:** Jackson reports that BRA has not met but that there is progress at Marsh and Haslett with demolition.

**Earth Club/Okemos Action:** Saffron reports that there have been some screenprinting activities and a potluck. She also mentioned that there may be volunteers available for some of the upcoming “Green Events” if needed.

**Food Team:** Colby mentions that there may be a need for volunteers for the gleaning effort.

**Planning Commission:** McConnell mentioned that the revised master plan is out for comment. One of the recommendations (transition of Land acquisition to maintenance) garnered a lot of public comment supporting continued acquisition. A recent public hearing about a proposed development along Park Lake Road also received a very large turnout of residents concerned about added traffic on Park Lake Rd.-and other impacts. McConnell also mentioned the grand opening of Phase 1 of the MSU to Lake Lansing trail.

**Public Comment:** Nahum expressed appreciation for being invited and offered to continue to attend the Planning and Board of Trustee meetings until we have another liaison. He also mentioned that the trail system is a main reason he got involved with local government.

Recording at <https://meridianmi.new.swagit.com/videos/283690>

## 2024 Environmental Commission

|                                                       |                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BILL MCCONNELL (12/31/25, 3 year term) CHAIR          | <a href="mailto:mconn64@msu.edu">mconn64@msu.edu</a>                          |
| ANNA FISCHER COLBY (12/31/26, 3 year term) VICE CHAIR | <a href="mailto:anna.j.colby@gmail.com">anna.j.colby@gmail.com</a>            |
| GRAHAM DIEDRICH (12/31/25, 3 year term) MSU STUDENT   | <a href="mailto:diedgr@msu.edu">diedgr@msu.edu</a>                            |
| TOM FRAZIER (12/31/2026, 3 year term)                 | <a href="mailto:Fraziertom58@gmail.com">Fraziertom58@gmail.com</a>            |
| ANDREA PAUL (12/31/26, 3 year term)                   | <a href="mailto:andrea.paul1719@gmail.com">andrea.paul1719@gmail.com</a>      |
| YU MAN LEE (12/31/26, 3 year term) LPAB LIAISON       | <a href="mailto:leeyum@msu.edu">leeyum@msu.edu</a>                            |
| AMELIA SAFFRON (12/31/24, 1 year term) OHS STUDENT    | <a href="mailto:ameliagsaffron@gmail.com">ameliagsaffron@gmail.com</a>        |
| JOHN SARVER (12/31/26, 3 year term)                   | <a href="mailto:johnsarver3@gmail.com">johnsarver3@gmail.com</a>              |
| OPEN: Student and Student Alternate Positions         |                                                                               |
| PETER TREZISE TRUSTEE LIAISON                         | <a href="mailto:trezise@meridian.mi.us">trezise@meridian.mi.us</a>            |
| STAFF: LEROY HARVEY                                   | 517.505.2809 <a href="mailto:harvey@meridian.mi.us">harvey@meridian.mi.us</a> |

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**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:

ABSENT:

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ and supported by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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:

ABSENT:

The following resolution was offered by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ and supported by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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