



**AGENDA**  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
April 3, 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

Report on Joint Commission Meeting (Andrea, Peter, Bill, others?)

Green Grant Recommendations: <https://sites.google.com/view/green-grants-2024/home>

Discuss Climate Sustainability Funding Decisionmaking \$30,000 Proposal:

- 1) Invite staff, Teams (Green Burial, Wetland Ed., Green Team, Energy Team, Food Team, etc.) and others for suggestions. Submit by April Earth Day (Apr 22) at noon (gives time to include in May EC Packet)
- 2) Discuss suggestions at our May 1 meeting and approve first round.
- 3) If there are additional funds/projects... approve at our June 5 meeting.
- 4) Remaining funds approved by.... (staff, Green Grant Review Team, Department Director(s), ?)

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
7. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Staff, Liaisons, Teams (Energy, Green, Food, etc.), Okemos High School, etc. invited to share updates. Staff update can be found at <https://sites.google.com/view/staff-update/home>

8. PUBLIC REMARKS
9. ADJOURNMENT

## Environmental Commission (EC) Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2024 – Draft II

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

**Public Remarks:** Dave Batten offered to share some updates about Food Rescue later in the meeting.

**Agenda:** McConnell suggested we revisit the appointments and add introductions, including our new member and Trustee liaison.

**Minutes:** Approved. Frazier offered a typo change fixing McConnell's name and adding plural fixes.

### New Business

**Joint Board/Commission Meeting** on March 26th at 6pm. Reps of teams are welcome to attend. McConnell invites representatives to contact him if you are interested.

**Introductions:** Each commissioner introduced themselves to our newest liaison, Peter Trezise.

### Unfinished Business

**Appointment of Liaisons:** McConnell will continue serving as Planning liaison. Lee will serve as Land Preservation Advisory Board representative. Trezise offered some insights into the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (BRA). It's not a huge commitment of time and meets a few times per year. Sarver offered to serve as the BRA liaison. Trezise offered to share items that may appear on the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) of potential interest to the Environmental Commission (EC) such as wetlands.

### Unfinished Business

**Staff Update:** Harvey briefly highlighted items in a staff update located at <http://bit.ly/update-leroy>

**Energy Team** – Sarver mentioned a regional energy gathering on February 29 which included updates on Solarize, status of solar on Township buildings, a report from Capital Area Friends of the Environment, and a report on a regional EV infrastructure grant.

**Green Team** – Frazier mentioned that the Spring Recycling Event is April 27 at Chippewa Middle School.

**Food Team** - Colby shared a brief update from Valerie Lafferty about the Food Team. The food scrap collection at the Market, the gleaning initiative, and the Food Rescue initiative which captures food from restaurants, caterers, grocery stores, etc. They have rescued about 5000 pounds of food each month. The Gleaning Initiative is on pause due to the use of the cooler by the deer culling program. Dave Batten provided some history on the Gleaning Initiative. The first year collected 2 tons. Last year included public involvement and the amount rose to 3 tons. Haslett Public Schools, Okemos Public Schools, and Grand Ledge Public schools have expressed interest in participating. Over 50 volunteers are involved. McConnell asked if there are corporate policies that support involvement. Batten responded affirmatively. Paul asked whether MSU Dining Halls might participate. McConnell mentioned that COVID put a damper on this effort but that a lot of food goes to the student food bank. Paul mentioned that Jackson National may be interested in partnering. McConnell mentioned that the

MSU Dairy Farm is expanding and will influence demand for food waste in the future at the MSU Anaerobic Digester. Harvey mentioned a new subscription opportunity for food drop-off at the Marketplace on the Green. Batten complimented Tom Cary for being an advocate for gleaning and composting at the Marketplace on the Green. Trezise asked about a curbside food waste pilot project in Lansing.

**Green Burial:** Harvey mentioned that Williamstown Township is now offering green burial plots for sale.

**Earth Club:** Saffron mentioned that we should hear soon about an electronics/tech recycling drive. The Earth Club has also been promoting the Sustainable Fashion Show. There's also a bottle and can collection with Okemos Outreach and Paul mentioned her past involvement with Okemos Outreach.

**Meeting Adjourned** at 8:04 pm

*Note: Recording available on HOMTV at <https://meridianmi.new.swagit.com/videos/299251>*



## Applications & Green Grant Info

<b>Applications &amp; Green Grant Info</b>		<b>Rate 1 (low) 2 (med) 3 (high) 4(very high)</b>				
<b>other comments</b>	<b>request</b>	<b>ed. impact</b>	<b>eco. impact</b>	<b>clarity</b>	<b>total</b>	
<b>Mid-MI Environmental Action Council</b>	\$2,750	<b>Rain garden renovation</b>				
		John	3	3	3	9
public education signage		Peter	4	4	3	11
		Andrea				0
		LeRoy	4	4	3	11
					Total:	<b>31</b>
<b>Name: Mid-MI Land Conservancy</b>	\$700	<b>Tree planting</b>				
		John	2	2	3	7
		Peter	4	4	4	12
clarification on \$31 an hour volunteer time		Andrea				0
		LeRoy	4	4	4	12
					Total:	<b>31</b>
<b>Name: Haslett Child Development Center</b>	\$1,660	primary	<b>playground improvements and tree planting</b>			
	\$1330-3330	(secondary)				
		John	2	2	3	7
		Peter	4	3	3	10
		Andrea				0
fund priority items this year - use additional \$255 funds from the \$30,000 allocated for CSP projects.		LeRoy	4	4	3	11
					Total:	<b>28</b>
<b>Name: Haslett Beautification</b>	\$300	<b>perennials, annuals, and signage</b>				
		John	3	3	3	9
		Peter	2	3	2	7
could purchase plants from somewhere closer or farmers markets, unless there is a reason they're buying		Andrea				0
		LeRoy	3	3	4	10
					Total:	<b>26</b>
<b>Total Requests</b>	<b>\$20,255</b>					