

Charter Township of Meridian  
Land Preservation Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 10, 2012  
6 pm – Meridian Service Center

**Members Present:** Frank Hatfield, James Kielbaso, Jon Mayes, Robert Rusch, Margo Smith (6:10 pm), Mark Stephens

**Members Absent:** Mary Helmbrecht, Steve Webster

**Staff:** Land Management Coordinator Jane Greenway, Parks and Recreation Department Secretary Robin Faust

**Public Present:** None

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Kielbaso called the meeting to order at 6:06 pm.

2. Approve Agenda

Under Other: add discussion on reseeding the Sturk parcel; removal of invasive species reports—next step; youth program partnerships with schools and Lake Lansing North Preservation

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER HATFIELD SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA AS AMENDED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

3. Public Remarks

None

4. Approve Minutes for August 15, 2012

- Correct spelling of Board Member Mayes last name
- Page 2, item #7, change “enclosures” to “exclosures”

BOARD MEMBER HATFIELD MOVED, BOARD MEMBER MAYES SECONDED TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES AS AMENDED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

5. Communications

- August 26, 2012 Towne Courier article “Deer damage spurs third harvest in Meridian Township” – when asked about this being the third harvest, Coordinator Greenway replied there was the 2011 harvest, 2012 special harvest and 2012 regular harvest
- September 24, 2012 correspondence from Bruce Little regarding the managed deer harvest

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER HATFIELD SECONDED TO ACCEPT AND PLACE THE ITEMS OF COMMUNICATION ON FILE. Voice vote. Motion passed.

6. Presentations

a.

None

7. Land Management Coordinator Report

- a. Deer management update – Coordinator Greenway reported 15 deer have been harvested to date in the early antlerless season; all the bow hunters are from this area except one who is the son of the previous owner of the Davis/Foster Preserve; the Land Preservation parcels were removed from the hunt due to concerns raised on the language in the Ordinance; a proposed amendment has been submitted for the Township Board’s approval; this proposed amendment would allow for managed hunts on land preservation parcels; at a recent Towar Concerns Committee meeting, she presented the deer harvested program and answered questions; has been approached by the Sapphire Lakes Homeowners Association president about having one of the Township hunters harvest in their area and will be making a presentation to their Board next week; there are 51 hunters in the program; showed the identification materials the hunters carry with them and post in their cars.
- b. Turkey calls – Coordinator Greenway reported she has been receiving calls about problems residents are having with turkeys and one resident spoke at a recent Township Board meeting on it.
- c. Invasive Species Removal – Coordinator Greenway reported the second treatment on the invasive species in Towner Road and Davis/Foster parcel has been applied. This is a three year process. David Caszatt and Nick Sanchez also applied a treatment to the buckthorn in the Northwest Preserve. Paul Morrow is removing the Canadian thistle and mowed the fire breaks on the Davis/Foster Preserve.
- d. Lake Lansing North Preserve visit – Coordinator Greenway spoke about the recent visit to the Preserve; how beautiful the area is; can’t wait to see the results from these experiments and impact from the prescribed burn.

8. New Business

a.

None

9. Old Business

a.

None

10. Other

a. Reseeding of Sturk parcel

Board Members discussed how to reclaim the site; researching the U S Fisheries and Wildlife site on how to revert an area back to a native prairie; need to perform a complete assessment; may need to prepare the site before replanting. Board member Stephens will speak with Vern Stephens on reviewing the site and offer a recommendation on site restoration and Board Member Mayes will talk with Rose Lake about their restoration project.

b. Action on Invasive Species Reports / Next Step

Board Members inquired about proceeding with the next step after receiving the invasive species reports; concerned about removal of shrubs and other items in the Red Cedar Glen Preserve; spoke about the work being completed by Nick Sanchez, Dave Caszatt, Layne Cameron and others on the removal of Japanese hedge parsley, autumn olive, and other shrubs; spoke about working with chemicals, hosting a identification and instruction session for interest individuals who want to participate; and want to start to take more action on these reports; would like to see the Red Cedar Glen Restoration Plan from the Drain Commissioner's Office, like to see the location of the footbridges, development and construction of trails, do they have DNR and/or DEQ permits yet, what is there timeline, status of the bike trail, need to talk with Layne Cameron about bikers in the parks, need to check on trail that may be developed when Ingham County Drain Commissioner goes through, could Carla Clos give an update at November meeting.

c. Youth Program Partnerships

Board Member Stephens spoke about working with students and teachers on a planting project in the Lake Lansing North Preserve. Nick Sanchez has measured out an area that would be used as a dry prairie with savannah type plants, wildflowers and grasses. He outlined the proposed project to work with students and teachers to harvest seeds, growing the seeds through the

winter months and planting in the spring. Funds would be needed for materials and transportation.

BOARD MEMBER SMITH MOVED, BOARD MEMBER HATFIELD SECONDED TO APPROVE UP TO \$500 IN FUNDING THE COSTS FOR MATERIALS AND TRANSPORTATION COSTS FOR THE PROPOSED PLANTING PROJECT.

Roll Call:

AYES: Board Members Stephens, Hatfield, Mayes, Rausch, Smith, Kielbaso

NAYS: None

Motion passed.

11. Public Comment

None

12. Closed Session

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER HATFIELD SECONDED TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS LAND ACQUISITION ISSUES.

Roll Call:

AYES: Board Members Stephens, Hatfield, Mayes, Rausch, Smith, Kielbaso

NAYS: None

The Board went into closed session at 7:41 pm.

BOARD MEMBER HATFIELD MOVED, BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS SECONDED TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION.

Roll Call:

AYES: Board Members Stephens, Hatfield, Mayes, Rausch, Smith, Kielbaso

NAYS: None

Board returned to open session at 8:20 pm.

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER HATFIELD SECONDED, FOR STAFF TO TAKE SUCH ACTION AS WAS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION. Voice vote. Motion passed.

13. Adjournment

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER RAUSCH  
SECONDED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.