

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 14, 2012
7:00 p.m. Meridian Service Center

Members Present: Frank Hatfield, James Kielbaso, Jon Mayes, Margo Smith, Ken Sink, Mark Stephens

Members Absent: Vice Chair Mary Helmbrecht, Steve Webster

Staff: Land Management Coordinator Jane Greenway, Department Secretary Robin Faust

Public Present: Eckhart Dersch, Michael Thomas, Kelley O'Leary, Charles Hanley, Susan Soderman, Susan Villinurez

1. Call the Meeting to Order and Welcome New Member Jon Mayes

Parks and Land Management Coordinator Greenway stated since the Advisory Board does not have a chair and Vice Chair Helmbrecht is ill, an Acting Chair needs to be nominated to run the meeting.

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER HATFIELD SECONDED TO NOMINATE JIM KIELBASO ACTING CHAIR. Voice vote. Motion passed.

Acting Chair Kielbaso called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm, welcomed Jon Mayes and asked him to introduce himself.

2. Public Remarks

None

3. Approval of Agenda

Item #10a, Proposal to install garden on Lake Lansing South ("Potter") was moved forward to the next agenda item for discussion and renumber the agenda items.

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

4. Proposal to install garden on Lake Lansing South ("Potter")

Susan Meadows-Soderman stated she and her friends would like to create a community garden on this parcel. This site formerly was used as a train depot and a windmill. She would like to create a "land education" project and bring the parcel back to nature while being a community garden source. She is thinking of including bee hives and grapes. She is working with the Garden Leaders Training Program and has submitted an application for a sponsorship grant. She is also in contact with the Greater Lansing Food Bank "Garden Project," a program that has indicated a willingness to assist. The site needs to be cleaned and cleared, she has lined up sponsors from the Blue Gill Grill and Triple Goddess and talked with MSU about honey bees and their grape programs. She is thinking of planting sunflowers and thistle with bird boxes. A water source will be needed and she would like to purchase rain barrels. Before permission can be granted, a prepared plan will need to be submitted and approved. It was suggested that Ms. Soderman review the Ordinance, prepare a plan and report back to the Advisory Board. It was also suggested that she might want to include students/classes from Ralya and Wilkshire Schools.

5. Election of Officers

Acting Chair Kielbaso opened the floor for nominations for Chair.

BOARD MEMBER SMITH NOMINATED JIM KIELBASO FOR CHAIR. SECONDED BY BOARD MEMBER HATFIELD. Acting Chair Kielbaso accepted but asked if anyone else was interested.

BOARD MEMBER KIELBASO NOMINATED FRANK HATFIELD FOR CHAIR. SECONDED BY BOARD MEMBER MAYES. Board Member Hatfield declined the nomination.

Hearing no other nominations, Acting Chair Kielbaso closed the floor to nominations for Chair.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Board Members Stephens, Smith, Mayes, Hatfield, Sink, Kielbaso.

NAYS: None

The motion passed naming Jim Kielbaso Chair.

Board Members briefly discussed the Vice Chair position and by consensus tabled the election until Vice Chair Helmbrecht was available.

6. Approve Minutes of January 11, 2012

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER SINK SECONDED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 11, 2012 MEETING MINUTES AS SUBMITTED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

7. Communications

- January 20, 2012 Progress Report for Emerald Ash Borer, Stephen Burr
- Land and Water Stewardship Workshops for 2012, The Stewardship Network

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

8. Presentations

None

9. Land Management Coordinator Report

- Invasive Species Treatment Northwest Preserve – The report includes volunteer progress made during the fall 2011 and winter 2012 on the treatment of invasive woody shrub and buckthorn and clearing the natural paths within the preserve. On April 14, Naval Seal Cadets will be assisting our volunteers and a garlic mustard pull is being planned for late spring.
- Deer Management Update – During the extended hunting season, three deer were harvested which brings the total to 44, with 1590 pounds of meat donated to the shelters.

- Report from Year-End Meeting December 6, 2011 – This is the report given by Board Member Hatfield at the meeting.
- Sower property – received some complaints after the wind storm and staff has cleared the area.
- Financial Statement February 29, 2012 - \$1,425,967.91 is available for acquisition and \$329,244.04 is available for management.

10. New Business

None

11. Old Business

- a. Lake Lansing North Stewardship Plan – Land Management Coordinator Greenway reported a few changes have been made and are underlined on pages 11 and 12. Board Members offered the following changes: page 7, Wildlife paragraph, line 18, change “dominant” to “dominate”; page 9, Historic or Pre-settlement Condition paragraph, line 9, remove “the” and start sentence with “Recently, “; page 10; fourth bullet, line 4, remove the first “forbs”; page 12, Scope and Costs of Recommendations paragraph, last bullet, change “Meridian Twp:” to “LPAB”; page 13, change “Meridian Twp” to “LPAB”. Land Management Coordinator Greenway reported on the email update on the prescribed burn, the letter sent to the neighbors and this was also presented to the Environmental Commission. Discussion: would like to know the justification for the purchase of the light meter; the motion regarding the expenditure for this project was for “up to \$15,000” and did not include the purchase of this light meter with the unspent funds; Staff was asked to look into this expenditure.
- b. Lake Lansing North Conservation Easement – Land Management Coordinator Greenway stated this is for the Board Members information and a copy for their files.
- c. Red Cedar Glen Easement Update and Motion for Consideration – Mike Thomas gave an overview of the meetings of the Red Cedar Glen Stream Restoration Advisory Committee, the site restoration update and recommendation report. Eckhart Dersch reported the Park Commission has agreed to abide by the Recommendation Report and moved to forward it to the Township Board for their approval. Discussion: do you have cost amounts (will not know until after the proposed run-off from Ember Oaks is remedied); proposing a new drainage district upstream to dump into the drain and an assessment will be recommended; Schroeder will not be able to

develop further until a solution has been presented and approved; the plan includes a one-to-one tree replacement clause; tree replacement made be made on the site or on a different preserve site; next steps include a survey of the construction zone and flora stake survey.

BOARD MEMBER HATFIELD MOVED, COMMISSIONER STEPHENS SECONDED THAT THE LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD ACCEPTS THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE RECOMMENDATION PLAN REGARDING PROPOSED ACCESS AND DRAINAGE EASEMENT OPTIONS FOR THE RED CEDAR GLEN LAND PRESERVE, DATED FEBRUARY 22, 2012. Voice vote. Motion passed.

BOARD MEMBER HATFIELD MOVED, COMMISSIONER SMITH SECONDED THAT THE LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD INCORPORATE THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE RECOMMENDATION PLAN REGARDING PROPOSED ACCESS AND DRAINAGE EASEMENT OPTIONS FOR THE RED CEDAR GLEN LAND PRESERVE, DATED FEBRUARY 22, 2012, TO THE SYLVAN PRESERVE (RED CEDAR GLEN) MANAGEMENT PLAN. Voice vote. Motion passed.

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER HATFIELD SECONDED THAT TOWNSHIP ALLOCATES FUNDS OF UP TO \$3,000, FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE VEGETATION SURVEY WITHIN THE ACCESS CORRIDOR AND AREAS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED BY CONSTRUCTION, PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF ANY CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES. THIS SURVEY WILL NOTE AND MAP ALL SENSITIVE PLANTS OR PLANT COMMUNITIES THAT COULD BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY CONSTRUCTION VEHICLES AND ACTIVITIES. Voice vote. Motion passed.

BOARD MEMBER SMITH MOVED, COMMISSIONER HATFIELD SECONDED TO FORWARD THE RECOMMENDATION PLAN REGARDING PROPOSED ACCESS AND DRAINAGE EASEMENT OPTIONS FOR THE RED CEDAR GLEN LAND PRESERVE, DATED FEBRUARY 22, 2012, TO THE MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP BOARD FOR APPROVAL AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACCESS EASEMENT FOR THE RED CEDAR GLEN LAND PRESERVE. Voice vote. Motion passed.

12. Other
 - a. Discussed earlier in meeting
 - b. Staff Secretary Faust reported a suggestion was made to change the meeting time to 6 pm since the meeting time was originally moved to 7 pm to accommodate Board Members who are no longer on the Board. Members will think over the suggestion.

13. Public Comment

None

14. Closed Session

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER MAYES SECONDED TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSSION PROPERTY ACQUISITION.

Roll Call:

AYES: Members Frank Hatfield, James Kielbaso, Jon Mayes, Margo Smith, Mark Stephens

NAYS: None

The Board Members entered into closed session at 9:07 pm

COMMISSIONER HATFIELD MOVED, COMMISSIONER SMITH SECONDED TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION.

Roll Call:

AYES: Members Frank Hatfield, James Kielbaso, Jon Mayes, Margo Smith, Mark Stephens

NAYS: None

The Board Members returned to open session at 9:40 pm

Board Member Hatfield suggested a portion of upcoming meetings should be designated for education such how to use the assessment form; invite Mike Thomas to explain how current rating sheet was created and see if we need to update it; would like to have a presentation from an appraiser on what is involved in the appraisal process, what we should be looking for, etc; would like to have more information on the history of the parcels we have purchased. Members agreed and asked staff about making this change to the meeting agenda.

15. Adjournment

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER SMITH SECONDED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. Voice vote. Motion passed.

Chair Kielbaso adjourned the meeting at 9:45 pm.