



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday June 10, 2026 6:00 pm
Township Service Center
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Okemos MI

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. PUBLIC COMMENT
3. APPROVE AGENDA
 - A. June 10, 2026
4. APPROVE MINUTES
 - A. April 8, 2026
5. COMMUNICATIONS
6. DISCUSSION ITEMS
(BEGIN CLOSED SESSION)
 - A. Parcels for Acquisition Consideration**(END CLOSED SESSION)**
8. REPORTS
 - A. STAFF REPORT: Stewardship Coordinator, Emma Campbell
 - a. Update on current preservation projects & issues
 - b. MCC June Stewardship Calendar
 - B. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Yu Man Lee
 - C. PARK COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Mark Stephens
 - D. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT: Clerk, Angela Demas
9. PUBLIC COMMENT
10. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS
11. ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - A. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, August 10, 2026 at 6 pm at The Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Okemos, Michigan 48864.
12. ADJOURNMENT

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Meridian Township Land Preservation Advisory Board by contacting: Director Courtney Wisinski, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 or 517.853.4600 - Ten Day Notice is Required.

Meeting Location: 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Township Service Center
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court | Haslett, MI
Wednesday, April 8, 2026, 6 PM

PRESENT: Board Members: Steve Thomas, Kathy Fay, Yu Man Lee (Environmental Commission), Mark Stephens (Park Commission), Angela Demas (Township Board), Kris Parnell.
ABSENT: Jamie Hiller.
STAFF: Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Thomas called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

a. None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

a. April 8, 2026

Commissioner Stephens moved to approve the April 8, 2026 Agenda to place on file. Board member Fay seconded.

Voice vote: Unanimous

4. APPROVE MINUTES

a. March 11, 2026

Board member Fay moved to approve the minutes from March 11, 2026 to place on file. Commissioner Stephens seconded.

Voice vote: Unanimous

5. COMMUNICATIONS

a. No May meeting is scheduled.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Pike Crossing Preserve Proposed Pathway

i. Deputy Township Manager Opsommer recaps this issue from the February and March meetings and presents the updated memo for this issue.

ii. Board members concerns and comments:

1. Would like other examples of this happening in the past.

a. Red Cedar Glen Preserve (not a paved pathway)

i. Implemented to increase safety and accessibility from Dobie Road to Meridian Road.

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- b. Okemos Road Preserve (paved pathway)
 - i. This runs through an easement that was planned for a pathway before the purchase of the preserve was made.
 2. Pike Crossing Preserve may be a low quality area ecologically, but it still has value as a preservation area for wildlife and plants.
 - a. The pathway will decrease ecological value of the preserve through habitat fragmentation.
 - b. The concern is that there is not an official guide on how to address issues such pathways on land preserves, which has an ordinance that states these are not allowable activities.
 3. Could establish a policy (similar to Zoning Board of Appeals) to help us navigate these future issues when they come up.
 4. Signage would be necessary to educate public users to remain on the pathway, and to notify of preservation rules.
 - b. Pike Crossing Preserve neighborhood encroachment
 - i. Questions and comments:
 1. Board members are very concerned about the precedent this issue sets for all encroachment issues on Township land in the future.
 2. Encroachment is the leading issue that staff deals with on a daily basis in relation to the management and health of land preserves.
 - a. Encroachment issues include dumping of yard waste/trash, construction of structures, and mowing of preserve vegetation. All of these already happen on Pike Crossing Preserve.
 3. Encroachment continues to be an issue at Pike Crossing Preserve despite signage and communication efforts targeted toward surrounding neighborhoods.
 4. The original agreement between the landowners of 1442 Haslett and the Township Board, outlines square footage a for a land trade.

Clerk Demas makes a motion to suspend current meeting rules to take action. Commissioner Stephens seconded.

Voice vote: Unanimous

Clerk Demas moves to deny the construction of a fence and structures along the property line of the Pike Crossing Land Preserve property adjacent to 1442 Haslett. Board member Parnell seconded.

Voice vote: Unanimous.

Commissioner Stephens makes a motion to move into closed session. Board member Parnell seconded.

(BEGIN CLOSED SESSION)

- c. Parcels for Acquisition Consideration

(END CLOSED SESSION)

Commissioner Stephens makes a motion to move out of closed session. Vice Chair Thomas seconded.

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Vice Chair Thomas makes a motion to authorize staff to negotiate with the property owner of the parcel in question, up to the value as discussed in closed session. Clerk Demas seconded.

Roll call:

Yayes: Angela Demas, Mark Stephens, Kris Parnell, Yu Man Lee, Kathy Fay, Steve Thomas.

Nayes: None.

7. ACTION ITEM

A. Pike Crossing Preserve proposed pathway

Commissioner Stephens moved to approve the construction of Phase III of the MSU to Lake Lansing Trail across the Pike Crossing Land Preserve property. Board member Parnell seconded.

Roll Call:

Yayes: Angela Demas, Mark Stephens, Kris Parnell, Yu Man Lee.

Nayes: Kathy Fay, Steve Thomas.

Motion carries four to two.

7. REPORTS

- a. STAFF REPORT: Stewardship Coordinator, Emma Campbell
 - i. Update on current preservation projects & issues
 - 1. Spring invasive management
 - a. Lesser celandine (*Ficaria verna*) is staff's priority plant to manage this time of year. Populations are currently managed at Foster Crouse Preserve (the only preserve with a small population), Ted Black Woods, N. Meridian Road Park, and Ottawa Hills Park.
 - ii. MCC April Stewardship Calendar
- b. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT: Commissioner Yu Man Lee
 - i. Reviewed Green Grant applications. Six total applications.
 - 1. Two were approved so far.
- c. PARK COMMISSION REPORT: Commissioner Mark Stephens
 - i. Nothing to report.
- d. TOWNSHIP BOARD REPORT: Clerk, Angela Demas
 - i. Three elections this year with one makeup election scheduled.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. None.

9. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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- a. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, June 10, 2026 at 6 pm at the Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Okemos, Michigan 48864.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Board member Parnell moved to adjourn the meeting. Board member Fay seconded.

Voice vote: Unanimous

Chair Thomas adjourned the meeting at 8:04 pm.

Item 7.A.



To: Land Preservation Advisory Board Members
From: Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator
Date: June 10, 2026
Re: June 2026 Stewardship Staff Report

Staff provides a brief summary of land preserve updates:

1. Spring stewardship activities continue:
 - a. Mechanical removal of many invasive plants species across parks & preserves
 - i. Garlic mustard, dames rocket, yellow rocket, Japanese hedge parsley, common speedwell
 - b. Native plantings and watering of plantings during dry times (transplants grown from seed collection the year prior)
 - i. Hairy angelica, culvers root, early goldenrod, bladdernut trees
 - c. Invasive shrub and vine removal and cutting where necessary (no herbicide used)
 - d. Chemical treatment of the following invasive species:
 - i. Crown vetch, spotted knapweed, reed canary grass, (purple loosestrife will be coming soon)
 - ii. We did not meet in May, but as an update, this year for the first time, all of the known infestations of *Ficaria verna* (lesser celandine) were chemically managed both by staff and Summers Invasive Species Management
 - e. Staff continued to seed native species collected last fall in several locations across the Township
2. Staff is working with several participants from the MSU Extension Conservation Stewards Program on participant's capstone projects
 - a. Forest Hills Pollinator Meadow, Wildwood Lakes HOA management of common space areas and installation of native plantings, Lake Lansing North Preserve species inventory of prescribed burn areas
3. Glassen Scholar Intern, Grace Faunce, began working with us on May 11th
 - a. Grace's focus is conservation biology, and she plans to help implement education and signage for turtle crossings during her time with Meridian Township
4. June 1st, How to Build a Rain Garden workshop was hosted by Meridian Township in collaboration with MSU Extension and the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission as a free program to help homeowners embrace the beauty and functionality of native plants.

JUNE

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STEWARDSHIP

STEWARDSHIP SATURDAYS

These workdays occur every other Saturday year round.

- June 13th: Heron Creek Preserve, (end of Creekstone Trl), invasive mustard removal
- June 27th, Tihart Preserve (1000 Tihart Rd), Hedge Parsley & knapweed pull

WEEKDAY WARRIORS

- June 4th: Serafine Preserve (end of Del Mar Dr), hand pulling & chopping invasive species
- June 18th: Riverside Cemetery (2400 Small Acres Ln), invasive species removal & native plant ID

RAIN GARDEN WORKSHOP | JUNE 1

REGISTER NOW

Discover the beauty and power of native plants to prevent flooding and attract pollinators to your yard in this free "How to Build a Rain Garden" workshop for beginners. Participants will receive instructions in techniques, a handbook, plant selection tips, and a tour of a rain garden! This event is free, but you must register here: <https://www.mywatersheds.org/event-details/how-to-build-a-rain-garden-1>

***ALL EVENTS ARE WEATHER DEPENDENT & MAY BE CANCELLED THE DAY OF**

S M T W T F S

	1 RAIN GARDEN WORKSHOP 6-8 PM	2	3	4 WEEKDAY WARRIORS 1-3 PM	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY 9:30 - 12 PM
14	15	16	17	18 WEEKDAY WARRIORS 1-3 PM	19 TOWNSHIP OFFICES CLOSED	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY 9:30 - 12 PM
28	29	30				

PLEASE RSVP TO EMMA AT ECAMPBELL@MERIDIAN.MI.US, OR 517.897.3610

