



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Township Service Center
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court | Haslett, MI
Wednesday, November 9, 2022, 6 PM

PRESENT: Board Members: Jamie Hiller, Steve Thomas, Kris Parnell, Yu Man Lee, Mark Stephens
ABSENT: Township Trustee, Courtney Wisinski, Board Member Kendra Grassesschi
STAFF: Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator
TOWNSHIP: None.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Hiller moved to call the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

A. November 9, 2022

Vice Chair Thomas makes a motion to amend November 9, 2022 agenda to include Item 7A Land Preservation Advisory Board 2023 Meeting Resolution. Board Member Lee seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. September 21, 2022

Board member Stephens moved to approve the minutes and place them on file. Board member Parnell seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

A. The Township Joint Board Meeting is on November 15th 2022 at 6 pm located at Town Hall.

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. 730 Knightsford Lane Drainage Issue

1. Emma Campbell (Stewardship Coordinator) gives a brief overview of the timeline of events pertaining to the drainage issue at 730 Knightsford Lane as follows:

i. Mr. Schultz contacted Township staff in October of 2021 about flooding issues to their basement after a large storm event that took place in June of 2021. Damage was incurred to their basement.

Minutes – Land Preservation Advisory Board

November 9, 2022

Page 2 of 6

- ii. Mr. Schultz and his engineer attended the November 2021 meeting to discuss the issue with the board.
 - iii. Staff members met and wrote a letter of recommendation on next steps in January of 2022, one of the priorities being to contact the Ingham County Drain Office for their recommendations prior to moving forward with the Township.
 - iv. In April of 2022 the Ingham County Drain Commissioner wrote a letter of recommendation after meeting with Mr. Schultz and his engineer.
 - v. The ICDC came to the conclusion that Mr. Schultz’s lot would not currently meet ICDC standards.
 - vi. The ICDC recommended utilizing the preserve property as an emergency overflow to prevent future flooding – directing flow onto Meridian property (Davis Foster Preserve), then west toward Van Atta Road.
 1. Flow would run toward Van Atta Road then enters the easterly roadside ditch, under the jurisdiction of the Ingham County Road Department.
 2. The flow would then pass through a cross culvert adjoining the drain on Meridian property.
 3. A flowage easement would have to be created by the Township with specific conditions, and be the responsibility of the landowner at 730 Knightsford Lane.
 - vii. Township staff met to discuss all options with Mr. Schultz and Mr. Ensign, his engineer.
 - viii. A new letter of recommendation was sent in May of 2022 with conditions and stipulations pending approval from the Land Preservation Advisory Board and the Township Board.
 - ix. In July of 2022 Township Staff met with Mr. Schultz and Mr. Powers from Redwood Landscaping to discuss the details of swale construction and work that has been done to improve flow.
 1. Retention pond will be/was dug out to improve short-term filtration (not a long term solution)
 2. The culvert under the driveway at the property was cleaned out and opened up partially
2. Discussion and concerns from board members:
- i. What is the precedent that this would set for other Township preserves? The future of this scenario needs to be heavily considered.
 - ii. The Township remains empathetic to the community members struggling with flooding issues and mishaps due to outdated

permitting for development, but the preservation of natural areas is a high priority. A balance must be struck for the future of scenarios like this one.

- iii. Concerns about developing a swale on the Davis Foster Preserve:
 - 1. There is a reasonably good chance that surface water runoff from large rain events will intercept ground water from the wetland. Surface water from residential areas has the potential to be extremely degrading to groundwater in preserves.
 - 2. Disturbed land that would result from excavation of a swale has a higher chance of growing invasive or weedy plant species, as well as creating soil that can erode and dry out faster. This could make long term management of the area more difficult. Reed Canary grass is an invasive species that moves into areas like this often.
 - a. Due to the swale needing to be re-excavated every 10-20 years, that could cause issues cultivating a native seedbank in that area.
 - 3. The flowage easement that would need to be created would be passed on to the next landowner, which could create issues with enforcement of maintenance on the easement.
 - 4. If there are any other reasonable options to provide emergency runoff for large rain events from the 730 Knightsford Lane property, the board would like to see those options investigated as much as possible.
- iv. Suggestions from the board to gather more information and other options to pursue that could provide emergency runoff relief during large storm events:
 - 1. Install monitoring wells at the proposed swale site on Davis Foster Preserve
 - a. This will provide information on where the ground water level is at the site. Since the board and staff are concerned about surface water mixing with ground water, this will provide more clarification on that specific scenario.
 - b. The board would prefer to keep monitoring wells installed at Davis Foster until spring to get a proper reading on the ground water level. They do understand the urgency for the landowner to reach a decision sooner, but this would provide a more accurate level of ground water in the area.

Minutes – Land Preservation Advisory Board

November 9, 2022

Page 4 of 6

2. Get a cost estimate on installing pipe that leads to the existing drain on the western side of the preserve property. The pipe would have to run for an estimated 420 feet to meet the concerns of the board.
 - a. This option would stop surface water from the emergency runoff floodwater from immediately mixing with groundwater on the preserve property.
3. Get a cost estimate for option #3 from the ICDC recommendation letter, constructing a berm with pumps to provide a barrier between the overflow from the private retention basin and Mr. Schultz's house. A pump will be required to drain trapped water behind the berm.

Board member Stephens makes a motion to table Item 6A, 730 Knightsford Lane Drainage Issue, until the suggested information is gathered by the homeowner and presented at the next meeting scheduled for January 11, 2023. Vice Chair Thomas seconded.

Voice vote: Unanimous.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Wetland Restoration & Education Program Update
 1. Board member Grassesschi is absent, staff member Campbell decides to discuss updates at next meeting.
- B. Climate Sustainability Plan
 1. Input on Wetlands & Water Quality Section
 - i. Board member Grassesschi is absent, staff member Campbell decides to discuss updates at next meeting and advises board members to send any input on the Water Quality Section of CSP plan to board member Grassesschi.

(CLOSED SESSION BEGINS)

- C. Land Acquisition Update

(CLOSED SESSION ENDS)

7. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Land Preservation Advisory Board 2023 Meeting Resolution
 1. Resolution document (next page)

Board member Stephens makes a motion to approve the Land Preservation Advisory Board 2023 Meeting Resolution. Board member Parnell seconded.

Voice vote: Unanimous.

Minutes – Land Preservation Advisory Board

November 9, 2022

Page 6 of 6

8. REPORTS

- A. STAFF REPORT: Stewardship Coordinator, Emma Campbell
 - 1. Staff member Campbell discusses end of year stewardship and reporting. Annual report and goals for 2023 will be presented and discussed at the January 11th, 2023 meeting.
 - 2. Current stewardship initiatives are native seed collection and sowing, invasive species removal and litter pickup.
- B. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Kendra Grassesschi
 - 1. Board Member Grassesschi is absent, no report is given.
- C. PARK COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Mark Stephens
 - 1. Board member Stephens did not report anything from the Park Commission, but does mention that there are an array of native wildflowers growing in the drainage area that was recently improved at Hillbrook Park.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. None.

10. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

- A. None.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 at 6 pm at the Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett 48840.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Board member Parnell moved to adjourn the meeting. Vice chair Thomas seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chair Thomas adjourned the meeting at 9:11 pm.