

Draft

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2017
6 PM – SERVICE CENTER

Members Present: Julie Brixie, Roland Harmes, Jamie Hiller, James Kielbaso, Yu Man Lee, Jon Mayes, Margo Smith, Mark Stephens

Members Absent: None

Staff: LuAnn Maisner, Director of Parks and Recreation; Jane Greenway, Senior Parks and Land Management Coordinator; Kelsey Dillon, Stewardship Coordinator

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Kielbaso called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm

2. Approve Agenda

Move.

BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE MOVED, BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS SECONDED, TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO MOVE AGENDA ITEM #8D, NEW BUSINESS, ELECTION OF OFFICERS, UP TO #3 AND RENUMBER REMAINING AGENDA ITEMS. Voice vote. Motion passed.

3. Election of Officers

BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE MOVED, BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS SECONDED, TO ELECT JON MAYES CHAIR AND JAMES KIELBASO VICE CHAIR. Voice vote. Motion passed.

4. Public Remarks

None

Board Member Harmes suggested a joint meeting between the Park Commission and Land Preservation Advisory Board (LPAB) and one topic could be the discussion of a land trade for Spengler Marsh. Members agreed this would be beneficial and a meeting will be scheduled in the near future.

5. Orientation
 - a. Introduction of new member, Jamie Hiller

New board member Jamie Hiller gave a brief history and was introduced to the other board members and staff.

- b. Binder review

Coordinator Greenway reviewed the new pages for the board members manual.

6. Approve Minutes
 - a. December 14, 016

BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE MOVED, BOARD MEMBER SMITH SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 14, 2016 MINUTES AS PRESENTED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

7. Communications
 - a. Email from Margo Smith; RE: TSN Webcast – How Deer Affect Plants, Pollinators and Ecological Processes: Studies in Southeast Michigan (The Stewardship Network monthly webcast)
 - b. 2017 Stewardship Network Conference Notes
 - c. From: Rhonda Bueche, Okemos, RE: in opposition to the rezoning of the Walnut Hills Country Club
 - d. Invitation to the Celebrate Enactment Day event at the Michigan State Capitol on February 16, 2017
 - e. 2017 Family Fun Guide: Land Preserves of Meridian Township, page 32; Land Preservation Spotlight, page 33; Meridian Parks Volunteer Connection, page 57 and 58
 - f. Joint Meeting presentation: Meridian Township Land Preservation 2016, Meridian Township Land Preservation Program 2017 Projects, 2016 Park Facility Accomplishments; Meridian Township Park Commission 2017 Projects

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

8. Old Business

None

9. New Business

- a. Sierra Ridge Flowage Easement
Ingham County Drain Commissioner's Office representative Dave Love presented the request for a flowage easement through Sierra Ridge (presentation included in meeting packet)

Discussion:

- Concerned about the quality of water flowing into the Land Preserve from the development
- Drain Commission plan to install a rain garden on the east side of the culvert and will be responsible for the management of the rain garden

BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE MOVED, BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS SECONDED, TO RECOMMEND THE TOWNSHIP BOARD APPROVE THE FLOWAGE EASEMENT WITH TWO CONDITIONS:

- 1) THE DRAIN COMMISSION INCLUDES EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE NEAR THE RAIN GARDEN ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS NATURAL FEATURE
- 2) THE DRAIN COMMISSION USE NATIVE, SALT-TOLERANT PLANTS IN THE RAIN GARDEN.

Discussion:

- Suggested including a recommendation the Drain Commission is responsible for the maintenance
- Inquired about the Costigan Drain in the Forest Grove Land Preserve
- Expressed appreciation to the Drain Commission for working with LPAB on previous drain maintenance projects

Voice vote. Motion passed.

- b. Vernal Pool Project Proposal

Board Member Yu Man Lee, presented the proposal for the Vernal Pool Project by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory, MSU Extension (presentation included in the meeting packet). Board Member Lee asked to be excused for voting on the project.

BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE MOVED, BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS SECONDED, TO EXCUSE BOARD MEMBER YU MAN LEE FROM VOTING ON THE VERNAL POOL PROJECT. Voice vote. Motion passed.

BOARD MEMBER SMITH MOVED, BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE \$3,600 IN FUNDS REQUESTED FOR THE VERNAL POOL PROJECT BY THE MICHIGAN NATURAL FEATURES INVENTORY.

Roll Call:

AYES: Margo Smith, Julie Brixie, Roland Harmes, Jamie Hiller, James Kielbaso, Amanda Lick, Mark Stephens, Jon Mayes,
NAYES: None
EXCUSED: Yu Man Lee

Motion passed.

c. Support for the Stewardship Network/ MMSI

Leslie Kuhn and Jim Hewitt, Mid-Michigan Cluster of the Stewardship Network, presented the activities completed in 2016 and their request for financial support for the Stewardship Network projects and activities in 2017 (proposal included in the minute book).

Discussion:

- Members discussed the valuable work the Stewardship Network has completed in the land preserves

BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE MOVED, BOARD MEMBER SMITH SECONDED, THAT THE LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE OF \$5,000 OF MAINTENANCE FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUPPORTING THE STEWARDSHIP NETWORK. 43,500 OF THE TOTAL SHOULD BE ALLOCATED TO THE MID-MICHIGAN CLUSTER OF THE STEWARDSHIP NETWORK.

Roll Call:

AYES: Margo Smith, Julie Brixie, Yu Man Lee, Roland Harmes, Jamie Hiller, James Kielbaso, Amanda Lick, Mark Stephens, Jon Mayes,
NAYES: None

Motion passed.

d. Election of Officers

This item was moved and addressed earlier in the meeting.

10. Land Management and Stewardship Reports

a. 2017 Management Plan

Stewardship Coordinator Dillon presented the management plan for 2017 (plan included in the meeting packet)

Discussion:

- Have branding team look at land preservation signage
- Do not order a boundary survey or marker posts for the Tank Wetland

- Move forward with stewardship plans for Southwest Meridian Uplands, Northridge and Forest Grove land preserves
- LPAB agreed to proceed with the 2017 management plan with the noted changes.

11. Public Comment

None

12. Other

None

13. Announcements

None

14. Closed Session

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

Roll Call:

AYES: Margo Smith, Julie Brixie, Yu Man Lee, Roland Harnes, Jamie Hiller, James Kielbaso, Amanda Lick, Mark Stephens, Jon Mayes,

NAYES: None

Motion passed.

The session closed at 8:56 pm.

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE SECONDED, TO ADJOURN THE CLOSED SESSION AND RETURN TO THE OPEN SESSION.

Roll Call:

AYES: Margo Smith, Julie Brixie, Yu Man Lee, Roland Harnes, Jamie Hiller, James Kielbaso, Amanda Lick, Mark Stephens, Jon Mayes,

NAYES: None

Motion passed.

The meeting reopened at 9:11 pm.

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE SECONDED, TO INSTRUCT STAFF TO TAKE SUCH ACTION AS DISCUSSED DURING CLOSED SESSION. Voice vote. Motion passed.

15. Adjournment

BOARD SMITH MOVED, BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS SECONDED. TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 pm.