



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.

**Minutes – Land Preservation Advisory Board**

**April 8, 2026**

Page 2 of 4

- 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 agreement between the landowners of 1442 Haslett, the Land Preservation Advisory Board, and the Township Board, outlines square footage for a land trade. (see attached)

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

**Voice vote: Unanimous**

**Clerk Demas makes a motion to deny the construction of a fence and structures on the property of the Pike Crossing Land Preserve 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**

**Minutes – Land Preservation Advisory Board**

**April 8, 2026**

Page 3 of 4

**seconded.**

**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**

**Minutes – Land Preservation Advisory Board**

**April 8, 2026**

Page 4 of 4

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 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.**