



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Central Park Pavilion
5151 Marsh Road | Okemos, MI
Wednesday, June 14, 2023, 6 PM

PRESENT: Board Members: Steve Thomas, Kris Parnell, Kendra Grasssesschi, Kathy Fay, Mark Stephens, Jamie Hiller, Yu Man Lee.
ABSENT: Courtney Wisinski
STAFF: Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator
TOWNSHIP: Absent.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

CHAIR HILLER CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:06 PM.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. NONE.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

A. June 14, 2023

Vice Chair Thomas offers an amendment to the June 14, 2023 agenda to add Item 6C Use of Motor Assisted Bicycles to DISCUSSION ITEMS.

Commissioner Stephens moved to approve the June 14, 2023 Agenda and place on file as amended. Board member Fay seconded.

Voice vote: unanimous.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

A. April 12, 2023

Board member Lee offers an amendment to the April 12, 2023 minutes to include her as present for that board meeting.

Board member Stephens makes a motion to place the April 12, 2023 minutes on file as amended. Board member Parnell seconded.

Voice vote: Unanimous.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Parks and Recreation Family Fun Guide Release

B. Location update for summer 2023 meetings

a. Meeting at Central Park Pavilion until September

b. Potential preserves for a site visit

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- i. Red Cedar Glen Preserve for July 12 meeting, update website, and notify Clerks office.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 730 Knightsford Lane Drainage Issue Conclusion

- a. Property owners have decided to move forward making adjustments and renovations on their private property to alleviate any flooding issues from the surrounding neighborhood and land preserve.
- b. Emma Campbell notified them to reach out in the future if the issues return at any time.

B. Input on Water Quality section of the Climate Sustainability Plan

a. Board members comments:

- i. The Climate Sustainability Plan (CSP) needs to be rewritten every five years. The CSP is posted on the Township website. Commissioner Grassesschi wants to collaborate and get feedback if possible
- ii. The final CSP will have pictures demonstrating flooding in the Township, as well as pictures of wetlands
- iii. Objective is to reduce water use by residents and businesses in the Township through green infrastructure, protection of wetlands and riparian areas, as well as utilizing native plants in landscaping.
- iv. Objectives, strategies, and questions from Board:
 1. 2021 was a year of extreme rain events and there was lots of flooding, while 2022-23 have been drought years. How can we address these climate issues in the plan?
 2. How do we protect our natural resources in the area, and what are good strategies, plans and policies to mitigate destruction/degradation of these areas?
 - a. Wetlands, lakes, and streams are important sources of water in this area that can be improved through stewardship initiatives and educational campaigns.
 - b. Investing in green infrastructure, protection of wetlands and riparian areas, and installation of native plants where possible.
 3. How do we get through these drought conditions?
 - a. Planting native vegetation on your property as opposed to watering your lawns
 4. Is five years too long with the changing climate to inventory and update this plan?
 5. What would this group want to see as far as native species on landscapes?
 - a. Homegrown National Park – input of native plants, they track square footage, etc.
 6. Native plants are a wonderful asset to water management – they make the soil healthier, take on more water, draw up water deep down, and rely on less water due to their deep root structures and adaptation to our local climate.

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- a. Water per capita use – we could measure this since it is already tracked for water bills.
 - b. Educational campaign about reducing water use
 - 7. Look at trends for water usage per capita for the entire Township.
- C. Motorized bicycle use on parks and preserves
 - a. Bicycles, motorized or not, are not allowed on any Township Preserves except for the White Trail at Red Cedar Glen.
 - b. More ‘No Bike Allowed’ signage is needed in the walkable area between the streams (the white loop is allowed) at Red Cedar Glen Preserve. There are signs already present in 3 different areas, but a new trail has been made by hikers and bikers alike, along the river. It is causing major erosion in that area.
 - c. Commissioner Stephens will bring this discussion to the Parks Commission to provide insight into how we will handle this issue in the future as motor assisted bikes become more popular.

7. REPORTS

A. STAFF REPORT: Stewardship Coordinator, Emma Campbell

- a. Update on current preservation projects & issues
 - i. Preserve rule signage: signs are now delivered and parks utility workers are adding preserve signs throughout the summer
 - ii. Lake Lansing South Preserve Mowing Policy
 - 1. Mowing from neighbors continues on the preserve
 - 2. Stewardship plans will move forward, managing invasive teasel
 - 3. 1442 Haslett Road parcel delineation is still under legal review
 - iii. Floristic Inventory for Burn Management Areas
 - 1. Emma Campbell briefly discusses goals of plan
 - a. Correct misspell in Figure 1.
 - iv. Native Transplant Inventory
 - 1. Update on Planting a Native Meridian program and plant installations for 2023
- b. Stewardship update
 - i. Phragmites status in Township
 - 1. All known stands are mapped and contracted out for treatment in late summer, EGLE permits are acquired
 - 2. Unknown stands recommended for mapping by board members:
 - a. Bus garage for Haslett Public Schools – utilize outreach program for this stand
 - b. Stand on Haslett Road in Central Meridian Wetlands
 - ii. Dogs off leash in preserves
 - 1. At Davis Foster this is still a huge issue: dog poop is all over the trail, disturbance and mortality of wildlife has been witnessed and reported by a board member, other dog owners struggle to walk their dogs on leash due to dogs off leash
 - 2. The board discusses options to potentially get the police department to take stronger action across parks and preserves for this issue

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- a. You can sign a complaint, take it to the attorney.
- b. Educational signage
 - i. Future educational promotion in family fun guide
- 3. Township board – go to public comment to discuss issue

B. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Kendra Grassesschi

- a. Commissioner Grassesschi: CSP is being updated, but input is still able to be added if anyone is able to look over the entire plan. Any updates for the CSP should be shared to Kendra Grassesschi.
 - i. Wetland education team has been funded 10,000 dollars for wetland education and restoration
 - 1. A portion of the funding has already been utilized for mass mailings for educational purposes (resident & contractor notice on wetland buffer protections and local ordinance)
 - 2. ongoing buffer project at Hillbrook to enhance the function of the wetland at that site
 - 3. Signage was designed and approved. Ordinance signage will go in the Township about no dumping and wetland protection
 - 4. Provide Kendra a map for where the ordinance signage will go (Lake Drive, etc.)
 - ii. Green Fair this weekend June 17th at the Farmer’s Market

C. PARK COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Mark Stephens

- a. Commissioner Stephens: Did not have a meeting this month, rescheduled for the next month.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. None.

10. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS’ COMMENTS

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, July 12, 2023 at 6 pm at the Red Cedar Glen Preserve, 1389 Sylvan Glen Drive, Okemos, MI 48864.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Board member Grassesschi moves to adjourn the meeting. Board member Parnell seconded.

Chair Hiller adjourned the meeting at 7:54 pm.