

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES  
Meridian Municipal Building – Town Hall Room  
October 7, 2015**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**PRESENT:** Vice-Chair Jackson and Commissioners Searl, Schools, Sarver, and Kielbaso

**ABSENT:** Chair McConnell

**STAFF:** Gail Oranchak, AICP Principal Planner

**OTHERS:** John Scott-Craig, Cory Chvala,

**1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER**

Vice-Chair Jackson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

Moved by Kielbaso, seconded by Sarver. Approved by consent without objection.

**3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2015 WORK SESSION AND  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Moved by Sarver, Seconded by Kielbaso. Approved by consent without objection.

**4. PUBLIC REMARKS**

John Scott Craig spoke about the Ingham County Parks millage for regional trails. The Ingham County Parks Department is hosting public meetings to assess desires and needs of local communities. The next meeting is Thursday 10/15 meeting in Town Hall Room and in Delhi Township, East Lansing, Lansing, Mason & Williamston.  
[www.inghamcountyparks.org](http://www.inghamcountyparks.org) 517-676-2233.

**5. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Vice-Chair Jackson reported he Environmental Commission will see a new staff member in the coming weeks. Rick Brown moved on to a new position in the Traverse City area.

**6. COMMUNICATIONS/STAFF REPORT**

No report.

## 7. OTHER BUSINESS

### a. Review/Recommendation regarding Wetland Use Permit #15-02 (Chvala).

Principal Planner Oranchak summarized Wetland Use Permit #15-02 (Chvala), a request to excavate material from a regulated wetland to construct a pond.

Applicant Cory Chvala and the pond designer Stephanie Jubb of Mid-Michigan Ponds described the history of the project and clarified elements of the site plan.

The applicant acquired the property two years ago and received a variance to relocate the entrance to the property from Powell Road to Van Atta Road which facilitated the location of the pond. The consultant recommended the proposed location as the best place to enhance the wetland, currently a monoculture of cattails lacking wildlife and bird diversity.

Responding to questions from commissioners, applicant Chvala and consultant Stephanie Jubb responded:

- The deepest part of the pond will have a maximum depth of 15 feet.
- Areas outlined in black on the map will have a depth of less the four feet deep to sustain diverse vegetation.
- The wetland enhancement area will have lily pads and micro-topography in the bottom to help support healthy fishery.
- The proposed wetland seed mix includes 16 species of sedges, rushes and forbs and the applicant proposes to stock it with blue gill, bass, and perch.
- Monthly hydrology tests will make sure water levels are staying at a sufficient level to support the proposed wetland vegetation and wildlife. The applicant will do a visual assessment for invasive species.
- Invasive Reed Canary grass is present at the site. Applicant will excavate that area to remove it. The wetland consultant recommended monitoring for 5 years including a yearly vegetative assessment between July and September to make sure wetland vegetation is thriving.
- There has never been drainage into the neighboring pond. The land between is high and the pond is man-made. The applicant indicated he has spoken with the neighbor who owns the pond. The neighbor supports the project and does not expect problems.
- If invasive species present themselves, the consultant would make recommendations and consult with the township on the best course of action after assessing if there are invasives present, what they are, where they are, and how extensive.

**Moved by** Commissioner Kielbaso, supported by Commissioner Sarver, to accept the consultant's report which recommends going forward with this project.

**8. STUDY GROUPS/LIAISON REPORTS**

- a. Land Preservation:** Commissioner Kielbaso noted Land Preservation Board members visited the Hubbell site on Okemos Rd. and they will visit the Potter property which on the west side of Carlton, north of the CN railroad. They continue to negotiate on one property. The Township hired a stewardship assistant to work primarily on land preservation and Meridian's deer harvesting project.
- b. Energy Team:** Commissioner Sarver reported that he participated in a recent tour of nine solar homes in the greater Lansing area. There are two upcoming events: On Friday, October 9, 2015, Inter-Faith Power and Light will be holding its annual conference from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Peoples Church in East Lansing. A presentation by the Lansing Board of Water and Light about community solar options will be held at Michigan Energy Options on Thursday, October 15, 2015. Commissioner Sarver noted moderate success at the Michigan Renewable Energy Fair – 1,200 attendees and 30 exhibitors.
- c. Parks:** Commissioner Searl noted at its recent meeting, the Park Commission discussed the overall plan for Central Park prepared by the O'Boyle group. Improvements are proposed for Central Park South, Nancy Moore Park, the Historic Village and the Nokomis Center. Planting milkweed in Central Park and Wonch Park is planned to promote monarch butterfly populations. In response to a question about the Ingham County Trails millage, Commissioner Searl indicated matching funds will be provided through grants.
- d. Natural Features:** Commissioner Schools reported there are plans to have a joint meeting with the Land Preservation to coordinate a program to update natural features information in the Township.

**9. PUBLIC REMARKS**

None

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The Regular Meeting was adjourned by Vice-Chair Jackson without objections at 7:37 p.m.