

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2016
6 PM – SERVICE CENTER

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

Members Absent: Frank Hatfield

Staff: Jane Greenway, Parks and Land Management Coordinator; Kelsey Dillon, Land Stewardship Assistant; Robin Faust, Administrative Assistant II

Others:

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Kielbaso called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

2. Approve Agenda

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER SMITH SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA. Voice vote. Motion passed.

3. Public Remarks

New Board Member Yu Man Lee was welcomed and she gave a brief introduction.

4. Approve Minutes
 - a. January 13, 2016

BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE MOVED, BOARD MEMBER MAYES SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 13, 2016 MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

5. Communications

Land Steward Assistant Dillon summarized the following:

- Emails to Board Members
 - ✓ Stewardship Network Conference Summary

- ✓ Land Preservation Rules Sign, including responses from Margo Smith and Frank Hatfield (including copy of Ordinance and sign sample)

Board Member Smith spoke about using the “herbicide kits” by volunteers on the preserves and a project being coordinated with Jim Hewitt in September.

Staff was asked to get an update on the Lake Lansing Deer Enclosure project.

Board Members were reminded to avoid using the “reply all” in response to emails. An informational email may send out but when a response is sent with “reply all” it is in violation of the open meetings act.

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

6. Old Business

None

7. New Business

a. Contribution to The Stewardship Network

Coordinator Greenway summarized the supportive activities of The Stewardship Network and Mid-Michigan Stewardship Initiative in the Township and history of local support from the Land Preservation Advisory Board. Staff is recommending a \$5,000 contribution to The Stewardship Network with the support divided equally between The Stewardship Network and the Mid-Michigan Stewardship Initiative and the Initiative’s support to be held and disbursed through the Friends of Ingham County Parks.

Discussion:

- This is the same support amount as last year
- Have been financially supporting The Stewardship Network each year since 2009.
- The Township receives a value from this support

BOARD MEMBER SMITH MOVED, BOARD MEMBER MAYES SECONDED, THAT THE LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE OF \$5,000 OF MAINTENANCE FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUPPORTED THE STEWARDSHIP NETWORK. \$2,500 OF THE TOTAL SHOULD BE ALLOCATED TO THE MID-MICHIGAN CLUSTER OF THE STEWARDSHIP NETWORK.

Roll Call:

AYES: Margo Smith, Roland Harmes, Jon Mayes, Julie Brixie, Mark Stephens, Yu Man Lee, James Kielbaso

NAYES: None

Motion passed.

b. Prescribed burn at the Davis/Foster Land Preserve

Stewardship Assistant Dillon reported in Spring 2014, the Township conducted a prescribed burn on two of the four burn units that make up the restored grassland at the Davis/Foster Land Preserve. These units must be burned on a rotational basis in order to maintain the grassland and the two units that were not burned in 2014 are due to be burned in 2016. The benefits discourage growth of woody plants and fire intolerant species, diversify grasses and forbs, increases nutrient availability and expose soil for better seed germination. For a Spring burn, it will need to occur before mid-April to avoid interfering with the Henslow's sparrow nesting period but if unable to burn before mid-April, will wait until late October.

Discussion:

- Precautions will be taken by our contractor and the Meridian Township Fire Department approves the plan and is involved through the entire process
- Request for Qualifications have been sent out, four candidates have expressed interest, last year the project was performed by Bormann for \$2,700 for one unit
- The prescribed burn is needed each year on rotation basis to address maintenance needs and it helps keep Henslow's sparrow habitat viable
- Prescribed burns are weather dependent
- Would like to enhance with forbs and seed balls after the burn and asking some of our school groups to be involved, it is an educational tool with enhancement opportunities; will work on a seed proposal for the March meeting
- Monitoring should be conducted by staff through basic surveys with partners such as MSU and the high schools after the burn

BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE MOVED, BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS SECONDED, THAT THE LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD APPROVE THE EXPENDITURE OF UP TO \$8,000 OF MAINTENANCE FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING TWO PRESCRIBED BURNS IN 2016 AT THE DAVIS/FOSTER LAND PRESERVE.

Roll Call:

AYES: Yu Man Lee, Mark Stephens, Julie Brixie, Jon Mayes, Roland Harmes, Margo Smith, James Kielbaso

NAYES: None

The motion passed.

8. Land Management Report

- a. Stewardship Assistant Report - Stewardship Assistant Dillon summarized the monthly accomplishments and updates for January 2016. Highlights include:
 - Invasive species flags to assist with identification and education
 - Attended 2016 Stewardship Network Conference
 - Working with Jim Hewitt and the Stewardship Network on invasive species kit demonstrations
 - Working with Steve Thomas on volunteer stewardship days in Sogar Woods
 - Developing ideas and looking for funding opportunities for the viewing platform at Davis/Foster Preserve
 - Ordered dog waste stations for the Red Cedar Glen and Davis Foster Preserves, garbage cans will also be installed
 - Working with Dave Caszatt on the current pine seeding planting and showed the map for the for future planting sites at Towar Woods; suggested revisiting the list of seedlings for fall and use a wider variety; to talk with Township Engineers about the wetland map for area; Susan Masten is engaged in the project; need to look at the impact on biology as well as the aesthetics; suggest getting Castle Point neighbors involved
 - Meeting with Dave Reicosky on assistance with a wide variety of stewardship opportunities
 - Will look at the seed pods in the Historical Village for collection and use in the preserves
- b. Meridian Township Land Preservation 2016 proposed Management Activities and Opinion Costs – it was updated with suggestions from January meeting.
- c. Rules Signs for the Preserves
 - Distributed a list of possible activities and prohibited activities for the sign; suggest listing the top five prohibited items; suggest being more positive and encouraging and using the QR code to refer back to the Township Ordinance; will bring more options to March meeting
 - Questioned if the Township could track visitors through use of the QR code.
- f. Local Scouting groups assist with land stewardship – distributed copy of article in Towne Courier on January 17, 2016

9. Other

None

10. Public Comment

None

11. Announcements

a. LPAB Meeting; March 9, 2016, 6 pm, Meridian Service Center

12. Closed Session

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

Roll Call:

AYES: Margo Smith, Roland Harmes, Jon Mayes, Julie Brixie, Mark Stephens, Yu Man Lee, James Kielbaso

NAYES: None

The Land Preservation Advisory Board entered closed session at 7:18 pm.

BOARD MEMBER MAYES MOVED, BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE SECONDED, TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION.

Roll Call:

AYES: Yu Man Lee, Mark Stephens, Julie Brixie, Jon Mayes, Roland Harmes, Margo Smith, James Kielbaso

NAYES: None

The Land Preservation Advisory Board returned to open session at 8:22 pm.

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

13. Adjournment

BOARD MEMBER SMITH MOVED, BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE SECONDED, TO CLOSE THE MEETING.

The meeting closed at 8:23 pm.