



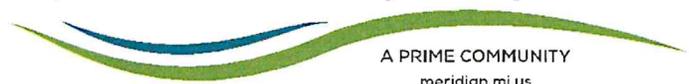
AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday November 9, 2022 6:00 pm
Township Service Center
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett 48840

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. PUBLIC COMMENT
3. APPROVE AGENDA
 - A. November 9, 2022
4. APPROVE MINUTES
 - A. September 21, 2022
5. COMMUNICATIONS
7. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. 730 Knightsford Lane, drainage issue
 - B. Wetland Restoration & Education Program Update
 - C. Climate Sustainability Plan
 1. Input on Wetlands & Water Quality Section
 1. **(CLOSED SESSION)**
 - D. Land Acquisition Update
 2. **(END CLOSED SESSION)**
8. REPORTS
 - A. STAFF REPORT: Stewardship Coordinator, Emma Campbell
 - B. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Kendra Grassesschi
 - C. PARK COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Mark Stephens
9. PUBLIC COMMENT
10. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS
11. ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - A. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 at 6 pm at the Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett 48840.
12. ADJOURNMENT

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Meridian Township Land Preservation Advisory Board by contacting: Director LuAnn Maisner, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 or 517.853.4600 - Ten Day Notice is Required.

Meeting Location: 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Ct., Haslett, MI 48840

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
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Wednesday September 21, 2022 6:00 pm
Township Service Center
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett 48840

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Township Service Center
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court | Haslett, MI
Wednesday, September 21, 2022, 6 PM

PRESENT: Board Members: Steve Thomas, Kris Parnell, Yu Man Lee, Kendra Grassesschi,
Mark Stephens
ABSENT: Chair Jamie Hiller
STAFF: Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator; Rebecca Fisher, Stewardship
Coordinator Intern
TOWNSHIP: Courtney Wisinski

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Vice Chair Thomas called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

A. September 21, 2022

Board Member Stephens moved to approve the September 21, 2022 agenda. Board Member Grassesschi seconded. Voice vote unanimous.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

A. July 13, 2022

Stephens moved to place the July 13, 2022 minutes on file. Parnell seconded. Voice vote unanimous.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

A. None.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Wetland Restoration & Education Program Update

A. One year that we have been meeting as the Wetland Education & Restoration Program

1. Funds left over to allocate for interpretive signage, educational programs. Budget passed for next year includes \$10,000 for 2023. Residential notice going out this fall and will continue to go out in the mail annually.

B. Climate Sustainability Plan

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2. Board Member Grassesschi is charged with coordinating the Water Quality and Management part of the Climate Sustainability Plan. Board Members Grassesschi and Lee have been reviewing this portion of the Climate Sustainability Plan to expand on wetland protections in the Township. Wetlands act as a huge resource and benefit for flood mitigation and water quality. The goal of the Climate Sustainability Plan is to be connected with the Township Master Plan as the environmental aspect.
 - a. Board members find it highly valuable to incorporate vernal pools that are smaller than a $\frac{1}{4}$ acre in our wetland ordinance. Currently wetlands of any size are regulated if they are within 500 feet of any lake, pond, or stream. This can include a county drain and/or a ditch. Ponds considered can be as small as one acre.
 - i. An idea for data usage in vernal pool ordinance: run analysis on what vernal pools actually are covered under the current ordinances and are $\frac{1}{4}$ or more acre in size. If there are many that not covered then we could assess the current ordinance.
 - b. Email Board Member Grassesschi with any input or corrections to the Water Quality portion of the Climate Sustainability Plan by email. Input is needed by the end of November 2022.
 - c. Include the Ingham County Drain office on this conversation, and/or use as a resource for this regulation.
3. Director Schmitt is reviewing all the ordinances, so now is a great time to overview the wetland ordinances for any future changes.

(CLOSED SESSION)

Board Member Stephens moved to go into closed session to discuss item 7C. Parnell seconded.

Roll call:

YAYS: Steve Thomas, Kendra Grassesschi, Mark Stephens, Courtney Wisinski, Yu Man Lee, Kris Parnell

NAYS: None.

C. Land Acquisition Site Visit Conclusion

(END CLOSED SESSION)

Board Member Stephens moved to take such action as discussed in closed session. Board Member Lee seconded.

Voice vote: Unanimous.

8. REPORTS

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- A. **STAFF REPORT: Stewardship Coordinator, Emma Campbell**
1. **2022 Deer Management Program**
 - a. The Deer Management Program will start October 1st, 2022 and run through January 1st, 2023.
 - b. 71 volunteer hunters from the Township will be participating this year over 43 Township properties.
 2. **Fall Stewardship**
 - a. Fall Stewardship is consisting of invasive species shrub removal and education, native seed collection and botanizing, and native seed processing
 - b. Contact Cherie Wisdom to coordinate seniors processing seeds collected by Meridian Conservation Corps. Discuss ideas for involving this group in stewardship.
 - c. RSVP retired senior volunteer program is another great resource.
 - d. Places with green houses that could grow native plants, such as Okemos High School.
 3. **Planting a Native Meridian, native plant guide release**
 - a. A resource for Township residents on how to learn more about native plants as well as gardening with them. Great feedback so far, lots of residents have been asking for these resources, and feel the guide is concise, and a great resource. This is also a great way to publicize for Harris Nature Center's native plant sale in the spring and fall.
- B. **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Kendra Grassesschi**
1. Nothing to add (Updates were discussed earlier in the agenda).
- C. **PARK COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Mark Stephens**
1. Hillbrook Park drain reconstruction area; blue lobelia and cardinal flower bloomed this year, providing an opportunity for residents to become familiar with local native wetland plants.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

NONE.

10. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, October 12, 2022 at 6 pm at the Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett 48840.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Board Member Stephens moved to adjourn the meeting. Board Member Parnell seconded.

Vice Chair Thomas adjourns the meeting at 7:49 pm.

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Meridian Township
5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, MI 48864

P 517.853.4000
F 517.853.4096

Township Board:

Patricia Jackson
Township Supervisor

Deborah Guthrie
Township Clerk

Phil Deschaine
Township Treasurer

Scott Hendrickson
Township Trustee

Marna Wilson
Township Trustee

Kathy Ann Sundland
Township Trustee

Courtney Wisinski
Township Trustee

Frank L. Walsh
Township Manager

May 23, 2022

Stephen & Jane Schultz
730 Knightsford Lane
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Schultz,

We have corresponded with you about the issue you are facing with drainage on your property in conjunction with the Davis-Foster Preserve to the North. While we would like to do everything in our power to help you with your situation, we do need to consider the protection of the Davis-Foster Preserve as we proceed forward. Currently we have a list of options that we believe would be the best to pursue to clear up the issues you are facing. We take the damage to your property very seriously and want to make sure whatever remedy is decided on, will be the best in the long-term for both your property and the Preserve.

Proposed suggestions from Township Staff:

1. **Installation of a swale on the Davis-Foster Preserve pending approval from the Land Preservation Advisory Board & Township Board.** If the proposed swale is approved by both boards, there will be stipulations in place of what will be required. Requirements for the approved swale are as follows:
 - a. Removal of invasive species within the area of flooding (as to reduce spread of invasive species through construction and runoff)
 - b. Addition of native flowers, shrubs, and grasses will need to be planted to add ecological value to the area, as well as increase the absorption of water
 - i. All plant species must be pre-approved by the Township, and of local Michigan genotype. A plant list will be provided to aid in planning of this area, which includes resources for this.
 - c. All plans for the swale need to be approved by Township staff first before going on to the Boards for approval.
 - d. The addition of native plants around the edge of the retention pond located on your property will aid in flood mitigation. The Township recommends a 10 to 20 foot buffer around the pond (in most areas, where it does not inhibit general maintenance of the property) to add extra water retention for the area during large rain events.
 - e. A plan for how equipment will be brought on to the preserve and restricted areas of use will need to be outlined before any construction proceeds. Stipulations such as, equipment being cleaned before entrance into the preserve to reduce the spread of invasive seeds.
 - f. The proposed swale, if approved, will require a written agreement from the Township, likely in the form of a flowage easement outlining the



flowage out to the Davis-Foster Preserve, and possibly to the Foster Drain outlet during large rain events.

- g. The swale will not be intended to drain the retention basin located on 730 Knightsford Lane, but simply provide an emergency overflow to prevent future flooding should the water rise to that level.

2. Neighborhood petition to connect to one of the established county drains nearby.

- a. Township staff feels this is the best long term solution. The retention pond is not a good source of drainage, and will benefit from a more long-term solution as storm events become more unpredictable.

Again, Option 1 will require approval from both the Land Preservation Advisory Board and Township Board. If you decide to pursue Option 1, you will need to provide a plan including all the stipulations listed above. If you have any questions or concerns about any of the suggestions above, please do not hesitate to reach out via email at ecampbell@meridian.mi.us, or call 517.853.4614. We want to move forward with the best solution, that everyone involved can agree on. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Emma Campbell
Land Stewardship Coordinator
Meridian Township