



**AGENDA**  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
December 7, 2022 7 pm

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Town Hall Meeting Room, 5151 Marsh Rd, Okemos

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. PUBLIC REMARKS
3. CHANGES TO/APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
5. NEW BUSINESS  
Master Plan Memo and Discussion with Brian Shorkey, Senior Planner  
More at <https://www.meridian.mi.us/about-us/departments/community-planning-development/master-plan>
6. OLD BUSINESS  
Climate Sustainability Plan Edits and Next Steps (editable versions can be found here: <https://sites.google.com/view/climate-sustainability-plan/home>)
7. REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS  
(staff update draft at <https://sites.google.com/view/staff-update/dec-7-2022>)
8. PUBLIC REMARKS
9. ADJOURNMENT

## Environmental Commission Minutes (draft)

November 2, 2022

**Corrections to Minutes:** Frazier and Colby suggested changes. Grasseschi asked about posting corrected minutes to the website and requested an update to the officers and Environmental Commission membership list.

**Master Plan Memo:** Brian Shorkey, Senior Planner, prepared a memo inviting input in to the Master Plan revisions. Chair McConnell suggested that the applicable pieces of the revised Climate Sustainability Plans be incorporated as they become available.

**Phase 1 MSU to Lake Lansing Connector Trail Memo:** Harvey mentioned Shorkey's 2<sup>nd</sup> memo about upcoming wetland impacts of future construction related to this trail. Shorkey will offer additional information at a future meeting related to a compensating cut. Lafferty asked about going under the overpass and Jackson mentioned challenges related to crossing the railroad.

**Climate Sustainability Plan:** McConnell asked about next steps. Grasseschi worked with others on the wetland section and some others about Lake Lansing but that there is more work needed. Sarver mentioned that the energy sections are ready to be reviewed by staff and that we might consider sharing drafts as they are available. McConnell offered to pass the energy section on to Planning Commission. Colby mentioned that the food section is still "half-baked." Jackson has offered to look at the water section(s) and possibly run it by the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. Harvey mentioned that the Communications Department offered to help prepare a condensed version. McConnell also expressed interest in creating a more dynamic/living version for greater usability and ease of updating. Colby mentioned a desire to have it reviewed for consistency, reading level, formatting, etc. Grasseschi asked the timing of and relationship to the Master Plan. Sarver mentioned a potential annual review of the plan. Other departments and groups include Land Preservation Advisory Board, Farmers Market, Transportation Commission, etc. Trustee Wisinski will reach out to Opsommer about connecting with Public Works staff. Frazier asked about opportunities for public comment. McConnell suggested that we also include the sewer-related concepts and description of our Water Resource Recovery Facility. Harvey will extend full editing privileges to

**Board and Committee Updates:** Wisinski mentioned a busy month coming up with the Board of Trustees. Sarver mentioned a recent discussion with the Energy Team working through an EV-ready workbook and next year's Solarize Meridian initiative. Consumers has mentioned that we should purchase one electric vehicle and charging station by 2024 to remain eligible for participation in their EV program and rebates. Lafferty reports that the Food to Compost committee will be meeting with Parks about opportunities, expand the Gleaning Initiative Okemos schools about a food audit and environmental curricula. This will be Lafferty's last meeting due to her winter plans and expiration of her term. Andrechek also met with the new Director of Nutrition and Food Service about vegan options and gleaning. There will be a Vegan Taste Test on Nov. 17. Frazier mentioned a successful electronics recycling event. The Green Team meets next week to discuss recycling events in 2023 including pop-up events at the Market. Grasseschi reports that the Wetland Education Team met in September. The Wetland Letter went out in early October to several thousand residents. [Planting a Native Meridian](#) publication has been produced by Emma Campbell. It will be available at the upcoming plant sale. Land Preservation Advisory Board met in September. The Deer Management Plan is underway and there is discussion about future land purchases. Harvey mentioned a podcast to be produced by the Okemos Earth Club, Tom Smith presented at a recent Green Dialogue about eco-landscaping. Amanda Frattarelli will lead a conversation next week about what to ask your lawn care provider. Harvey also shared pictures of the new solar carport at public safety and the bike tour (part of the Sustainable Home and Landscape Tour). Colby asked about who to offer podcast suggestions and Andrechek was suggested. Jackson suggested a couple edits (spelling of Pueppke and Extension) and announced John Sarver's recent recognition as Volunteer of the Year by the Board of Trustees/Meridian Township. Colby mentioned participation in the Good Food Charter workgroup.

**Adjourn:** Jackson moved to adjourn and Grasseshi seconded. Unanimously approved. Adjourned at 8:02 pm!



**To: Environmental Commission**

**From: Brian Shorkey, AICP, Senior Planner**

**Date: December 1, 2022**

**Re: 2022 Master Plan Update**

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In August, the Planning Commission asked Staff to issue the Notice of Intent to Plan for the 2022 Master Plan Update. This is an update to the 2017 Plan, which was a comprehensive update to the long-range planning in the Township. Prior to that, the plan had not been updated since 2005. The update was formally launched with a public hearing held at the October 24<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission meeting.

Planning Staff is letting the Environmental Commission know about the 2022 Master Plan update now. Communications Staff has created a website for the Master Plan, which includes a Master Plan Feedback Form and can be found at <https://www.meridian.mi.us/about-us/departments/community-planning-development/master-plan>.

The Planning Commission welcomes the input of the Environmental Commission to help guide the goals and objectives for the next five years.

For your reference, Goal #2 in the current Master Plan relates to environmental related issues and states, "Adopt policies and programs that maximize the preservation of open spaces, natural areas other undeveloped areas, and agricultural land uses in the Township." Goal #2, along with its associated objectives and strategies, are attached to this memo for your reference.

# 6

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

# Provide and Support an Efficient, Safe, and Environmentally Sensitive Multi-modal Transportation Network

- A Evaluate the existing transportation network and identify problems, including traffic congestion, safety, environment, and aesthetics, which can be solved at acceptable cost.**

### STRATEGIES:

1. Cooperate with county, regional, and state entities to develop strategies to improve traffic flow.
2. Consider zoning and other design strategies such as Complete Streets as effective means of ensuring safe and efficient travel for all modes of transportation.

- B Maintain local roads.**

### STRATEGIES:

1. Support improvements to local streets when a special assessment district request has been received from local residents.
2. Review reconstruction and expansion of local non-subdivision streets through the Capital Improvements Program process, when 50 percent of the improvement's funding will be paid for by the Township or its residents through special assessment districts.

- C Support the Township's Complete Streets Ordinance.**

### STRATEGIES:

1. Share the Township's vision and work with transportation and road authorities.
2. Review current policies to identify inconsistencies and impediments to implementing the Complete Streets ordinance.
3. Conduct planning, regulatory, and physical audits of current street designs as needed and financially feasible.
4. Coordinate the Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathway Plan with Safe Routes to School policies and other Township plans.

- D Expand and improve the Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathway Plan.**

### STRATEGIES:

1. Continue to implement the requirement for sidewalks as determined necessary.
2. Continue to implement the pedestrian/bicycle pathway system through site plan review.
3. Continue to support the pedestrian/bicycle pathway millage for construction and maintenance of the Township's pedestrian/bicycle pathway system.
4. Investigate alternative surfacing materials to reduce the amount of impervious surface materials used in the construction of the pedestrian/bicycle system.
5. Continue to investigate strategies for safe and efficient travel for bicyclists and pedestrians.
6. Coordinate the Pedestrian/Bicycle Pathway Plan with parks, schools, preserves, Greenspace Plan, neighborhoods, and other destinations.

**E Encourage the use of public transportation.**

**STRATEGIES:**

1. Encourage and promote public transportation service to any new developments and in conjunction with redevelopment via site plan review.
2. Institute design standards for site plan review to ensure public transportation access to all segments of the population but particularly those with physical disabilities.

**F Coordinate Meridian Township's transportation planning with regional planning efforts administered by the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and recorded in the 2035 Regional Transportation Plan.**

**STRATEGIES:**

1. Coordinate transportation planning and road improvements for all non-local streets with the region's long-range plan.
2. Advocate and promote the Township's needs and interests in transportation improvements with transportation and road authorities.



**GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

**Promote efficient and sustainable growth practices**

**A Implement sustainable energy and environmental practices throughout the Township by utilizing the most current best practices.**

**STRATEGIES:**

1. Budget funds to have Township buildings assessed for energy efficiency a minimum of once every five years.
2. For Meridian Township procurement purposes, when equivalent products or services are available, preference should be given to the more sustainable services or products.
3. Encourage electric car charging stations.
4. Establish a minimum level of LEED certification or the equivalent for all projects undertaken by the Township.
5. Establish ordinances providing incentives for development that emphasize redevelopment, infill development, alternative energy, and building material reuse.
6. Increase the use of alternative transportation modes for commuting and recreation by encouraging the use of mixed use planned unit developments and implementing the Greenspace Plan.
7. Explore methods, through ordinances or by providing incentives for existing businesses, to upgrade their parking lots and landscaping to increase tree cover and shade, to be energy efficient, and environmentally friendly.
8. Explore incentives for new or redeveloped projects to be LEED certified or equivalent.
9. Work with developers to consider alternative energy use in site plan and construction of new development.
10. Encourage the use of alternative energy throughout the Township and develop a coordinated, integrated vision to incorporate renewable energy into the energy mix.