



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION WORK SESSION
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Administrative Conference Room
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3 2019 7:00 PM

PRESENT: Chair, Bill McConnell; Commissioner, Aparna Krishnamurthi; Commissioner, Jim Kielbaso; Commissioner, Linda Burghardt; Commissioner Kirk Lapham; Commissioner, Commissioner Susan Masten.
STAFF: LeRoy Harvey, Environmental Programs Coordinator; Peter Menser, Principal Planner
CITIZENS: Lynn Page, Susan Andrews, MSU Student Reporters/Spartan Newsroom.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Masten moved to approve the agenda. Lapham seconded. Motion approved.

PUBLIC REMARKS: Lynn Paige, 3912 Raleigh Okemos, voiced a strong interest expanding recycling in apartment units. Given the growing number of apartment units in the Township, she feels that the timing might be good wonders if the Board might consider an ordinance. McConnell suggests that the Meridian Green Team might provide a status report at a future meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: Wetland Ordinance Changes: McConnell provided an historical overview of progress to date. This includes past and more recent changes to the State Wetland Ordinance, suggestions from Meridian's Wetland Consultant (Elise Tripp), discussions on the Commission, input from staff, and recent feedback from Representative Brixie's office. Lapham described conversations with the DEQ regarding potential changes (such as wetland essentiality determination). Menser provided an overview of next steps which include integrating comments from the Wetland Consultant, marking up the word file, preparing a zoning amendment, holding meeting(s), etc. Lapham moved that we proceed with the consultant's recommendations and have staff prepare a proposal for the Planning Commission. Masten seconded. Motion approved.

Wetland Banking: McConnell reviewed the Commission's interest in exploring wetland banking as a way to enhance, restore, and create (mitigate) wetlands to offset Township or Drain commission projects with unavoidable wetland impacts. There is the desire to meet with the Land Preservation Board to discuss. There is interest in learning more about past efforts related to the Rysberg Project.

UPDATES: Harvey shared information about a Carbon Fee and Dividend Workshop Tuesday, 7-8pm, April 9 at the Okemos Library. The Energy Team will also be presenting at the Fate of the Earth Symposium at the Kellogg Center on April 13. More at www.espp.msu.edu/events/fateoftheearth/2019 Menser reports that a Brownfield Training Session is being scheduled for April. Masten mentions that her Engineering students might be interested in helping as part of their capstone project.

Next Meeting will be held at the Fire Station (5000 Okemos Rd.) The next Green Theme will be on the "Michigan Green Communities Program" led by Tom Frazier of the MI Township Association.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 8:46pm