

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**DRAFT**

**April 4, 2018**

**5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864-1198  
517-853-4560, Town Hall Room, 7:00 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Jim Kielbaso, Susan Masten, Ned Jackson (left at 7:56 p.m.), John Sarver, Kirk Lapham, Ben Holland, Marina Ionescu  
**ABSENT:** Chair Bill McConnell  
**STAFF:** Environmental Programs Coordinator LeRoy Harvey, Assistant Planner Justin Quagliata, Principal Planner Peter Menser  
**OTHERS:** Planning Commission representative David Premoe

**1. Call meeting to order**

Vice-Chair Ned Jackson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**2. Green Themes Presentation**

A. Rebecca Esselman – PAH Contamination

Rebecca Esselman, watershed planner with the Huron River Watershed Council, introduced herself and provided an overview of PAH contamination and how it impacts the environment. Ms. Esselman shared her experiences with educating communities on the dangers of pavement sealers, described how the business of pavement sealing operates, and offered alternatives to traditional coal tar based sealants. She presented a draft ordinance and reviewed how communities like Meridian Township can address the issue. At the end of the presentation Ms. Esselman answered questions from the Commission regarding driveway sealant products available on the market, enforcement of laws regulating sealant types, and remediation techniques for those with coal tar sealant already applied in areas like residential driveways. The entire Green Themes presentation is available on the Township website.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Sarver moved to approve the agenda as written.  
Supported by Commissioner Masten.  
VOICE VOTE: Motion approved unanimously.

**4. Approval of Minutes**

A. March 7, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes  
Commissioner Kielbaso moved to approve the minutes with minor modifications.  
Supported by Commissioner Sarver.  
VOICE VOTE: Motion approved unanimously.

**5. Public Remarks – NONE**

**6. New Business**

- A. Township Wetland Ordinance Review - Commissioner Lapham explained that he was working on scheduling a meeting to identify changes proposed to the Township's wetland ordinance but has not yet been able to do so due to scheduling conflicts. The item will be added to the Environmental Commission's May meeting agenda.
- B. Environmental Commission Rules of Procedure - Principal Planner Menser outlined the draft rules of procedure document, noting there was no record it was ever adopted by the Commission. Mr. Menser noted that any rules identified by the Commission that differ from those provisions in the Code of Ordinances require Township Board approval. Further discussion will occur at the May meeting.
- C. Ember Oaks Wetland Use Permit #18-02 (SP Investments) - Principal Planner Menser outlined the request from SP Investments to place fill in a wetland area at the Ember Oaks subdivision for the extension of road culverts. He noted the Environmental Consultant has not yet provided a recommendation but one is expected soon. A site visit to the property will be scheduled in the coming weeks.

**7. Old Business**

- A. 2018 Strategic Plan

Commissioner Masten moved to adopt the 2018 Strategic Plan.  
Supported by Commissioner Sarver.  
VOICE VOTE: Motion approved unanimously.

**8. Chair's Report - NONE**

**9. Staff Report**

- A. Projects Update - Principal Planner Menser introduced Meridian Township Environmental Programs Coordinator LeRoy Harvey, noting Mr. Harvey would be transitioning into the role of staff to the Commission. Mr. Harvey provided an overview of projects he is working on and his responsibilities at the Township, which include, but are not limited to, working with the Green Team, Energy Team, Regional Recycling Organizing Committee, and an MSU student group, as well as environmental education and ecological landscaping projects.

**10. Commissioner/Liaison/Workgroup Reports**

**Planning:** No report.

**Land Preservation:** Commissioner Kielbaso noted the closing on a Land Preservation purchase of 86 acres called the Ponderosa Preserve. Other Land Preservation announcements include a tree planting, conversion of the Tihart Preserve to a native prairie, and partnering with the Michigan Audubon to achieve bird friend community status.

**Energy:** Commissioner Sarver reported that proposals are under review for the installation a 20kw solar system at the Public Works building. He also noted that solar education workshops are scheduled around the community.

**Parks and Recreation:** No report.

**Transportation:** Commissioner Ionescu noted her schedule was making it tough to provide reports and is looking for a volunteer to serve as the Transportation liaison.

**Student Report:** No report.

**11. Public Remarks** – Principal Planner Menser noted the May meeting would be Commissioner Holland’s last Environmental Commission meeting.

**12. Adjournment**

Commissioner Kielbaso adjourned the regular meeting at 8:35 p.m.