



**Environmental Commission  
Meeting Packet  
September 5, 2018**

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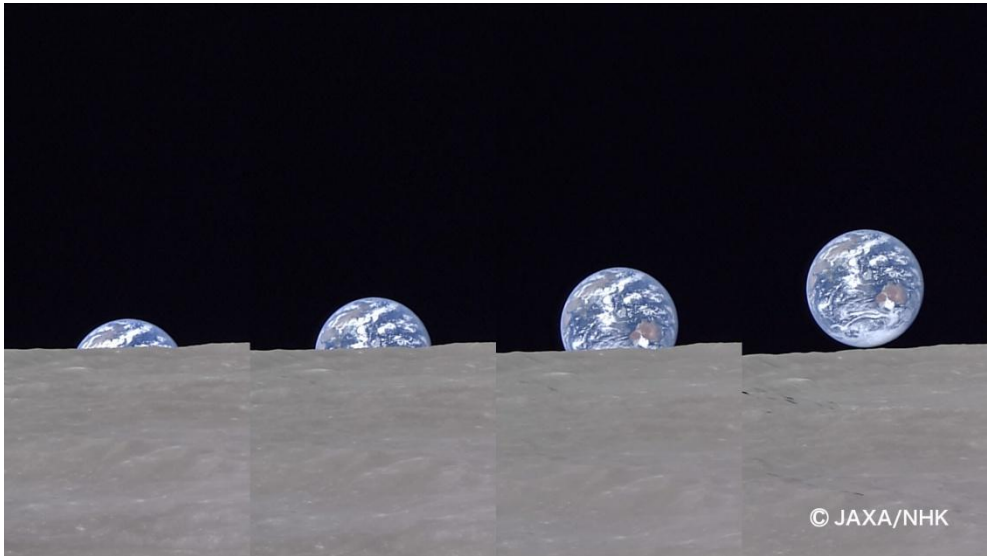
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## AGENDA: SEPTEMBER 2018

### *Town Hall Meeting Room – 5151 Marsh Rd. Okemos*

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:00 PM
2. GREEN THEME: **Green Placemaking** , Brent Forsberg
3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
5. PUBLIC REMARKS
6. NEW BUSINESS
  - A. Social Media Discussion and Update
  - B. New Commissioner Recruitment (apply at Meridian.mi.us – Gov't -- Commission )  
<http://www.meridian.mi.us/Home/Components/Form/Form/f47cd00226c74b6299bbdc6571ad9e43/102>
7. OLD BUSINESS
  - A. PAH memo
  - B. Wetland Ordinance Next Steps (Resource [Page Here](#) and prior packets)
  - C. Other
8. REPORTS & UPDATES
  - A. CHAIR
  
  - B. COMMISSION/LIASON/WORKGROUP REPORTS
    - A. Planning
    - B. Land Preservation
    - C. Energy
    - D. Green Team
    - E. Other
  
  - C. STAFF
  
  - D. OTHERS
9. OTHER
10. PUBLIC REMARKS
11. ADJOURN

## MINUTES: August 1 2018 (draft)

**PRESENT:** Commissioners Jim Kielbaso, Ned Jackson, John Sarver, Kirk Lapham, Chair Bill McConnell

**ABSENT:** Marina Ionescu, Susan Masten

**STAFF:** Environmental Programs Coordinator LeRoy Harvey, Principal Planner Peter Menser

**OTHERS:** HOMTV, Ingham Drain Commissioner Pat Lindemann, Wetland Mitigation Bank Administrator MDNR Steve Shine

### 1. Call meeting to order

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

### GREEN THEME PRESENTATION: Wetland Banking

Steve Shine, Wetland Mitigation Bank Administrator (MDNR) shared an informative presentation on wetland banking – an effort to maintain or enhance the ecological benefits of wetlands in watersheds (or eco-regions) where development infringes upon, or destroys them. The idea is to sell credits to developers to help pay for restoration and preservation of new wetlands elsewhere. See a HOMTV story here: <http://bit.ly/wetlandbanking>

There is interest in further “digging” in to this topic, particularly if we can identify sites within the township (areas that were once wetlands) that could be restored – especially in cases where development low-quality wetlands can help pay for restoration on a 2-1 or 3 to 1 basis (lose a low quality acre, gain 2-3 higher quality acres).

View the Powerpoint Presentation here: <http://bit.ly/wetlandbankppt>

### 2. Approval of Minutes

### 3. Approval of Agenda

Chair McConnell suggests moving Wetland Ordinance and related up on the agenda.

### 4. Wetland Ordinance and Ember Oaks Discussion

The EC invited the Drain Commissioner to report on its work in Ember Oaks. Ember Oaks is the site of a major wetland preservation effort and drain improvement. Ingham Drain Commissioner distributed a copy of a restoration project his office was involved with at Ember Oaks. See report:

<http://www.meridian.mi.us/Home/ShowDocument?id=13321&isPublished=False> A Wetland Delineation Report was recently received by the Township on behalf of a developer ([www.meridian.mi.us/Home/ShowDocument?id=13324](http://www.meridian.mi.us/Home/ShowDocument?id=13324)) and a Wetland Use Permit may be soon be submitted reviewed by the E.C. for further development on this site.

Lindemann commended the Township on its efforts to protect wetlands. He also provided some additional background on some of the projects he’s been involved with in Meridian and the region. He suggested that each project is unique and that creative solutions are not cookie cutter. Decisionmakers need to move beyond “checklists.” We also need to be thinking about a broad range of “low impact development” strategies – and the impacts of old style approaches to move water quickly off the site and down the drain. Lindemann cited the 100+ rain gardens in Towar

neighborhood as an example. See examples in the June and Aug Packets such as <http://semcog.org/Green-Infrastructure>.

Further research is needed as we revise our Wetland Ordinance, Platt Ordinance and related Wetland Use and Soil Erosion Control Permits.

As we continue to consider revisions to our wetland ordinance, we should: (please help fill the blanks!)

1) 2) 3)

**5. PAH Ordinance:** There is interest in beginning to educate our Township Board and Staff about this issue. Sarver offered to provide language used by the League of Women Voters. We also have brochures on the topic. Harvey will prepare a memo to the Board.

**6. Green Themes:** The upcoming schedule is in the packet. Summary below:

Sep 5	Brent Forsberg	“Green” Placemaking
Oct 3	Karim Chatti	Pavement Preservation
Nov 7 -	Cathy DeShambo	East Lansing Environmental Initiatives
Dec 5	Garry Rowe	Wellhead Protection

**7. Social Media :** Elizabeth Hossink could not make the meeting but she has been helping promote environmental stories, including Green Themes. She encourages us to “like” the Green Meridian Page on Facebook and join the Green Meridian Group.

**8. Reports and Updates**

A. CHAIR: None

B. COMMISSION/LIASON/WORKGROUP REPORTS

F. Planning: None

G. Land Preservation: Kielbaso promised an invite to tour the new Serafine Preserve next Wed at 6 PM on the south side of Mt. Hope Road.

H. Energy: None

I. Green Team: See Packet

J. Other

C. STAFF: See Packet

D. OTHER: Commissioner Marina Ionescu has had to resign from the Environmental Commission due to other obligations. Appreciation was expressed for her contributions.

**9. Public Remarks:** None

**Adjournment:** Moved by McConnell, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kielbaso, Unanimously supported.

## STAFF UPDATE

**Lawn Care insert distributed** (10,000+ water customers)

**PAH Memo to Board Draft**

**Recycling Event**

- Sep 29 Recycling Event Press
- Household Hazardous Waste
- Volunteer Needs

**Outreach, Publicity, Education, Social Media**

- See, “Like”, “Join”, “share” and make posts on Facebook
  - [Green Meridian Page](#)
  - [Green Meridian Group](#)
- [Green Gazette](#)
  - Send me stories or news
  - [Subscribe](#)
  - Share with friends (currently 600 subscribers)
- Environmentally Friendly Social Campaigns
  - [www.meridian.mi.us/gogreen](http://www.meridian.mi.us/gogreen)
  - Lawn Care, Fats Oils and Grease, No Wipes Down the Pipes, Scoop the Poop, Pollution isn't Pretty (water conservation in the works)

**Wetlands Research and Webpage:**

<http://recycle.meridian.mi.us/environmentalcommission/wetlands>

**MSU Sustainability Course Projects:** Will be discussing project ideas with Shari Dann CSUS 301. Suggestions welcome.

**Energy Team Projects:** Sarver will update progress on Solarize Meridian Meridian Solar System (20KW at Municipal Complex) – breaking ground in September!

### **Mow high and let it lie.**

Set your lawn mower deck high (3-4 inches) to encourage healthy roots and shade out weeds. Leave clippings on your lawn to provide nutrients and water storage for your lawn.

### **Limit your lawn to only what you need and where it will thrive.**

Extend mulch around trees to the drip-line. Plant native trees, shrubs, and groundcovers or install mulch or stones in areas not well adapted to growing a lawn (shade, heavy traffic, too wet or dry) or simply install mulch or stones.

### **Fertilize wisely.**

Fertilize based on a soil test, and never use a fertilizer that contains phosphorus unless your soil test indicates a need. Keep fertilizer on your lawn -- sweep it off pavement and avoid fertilizing before a heavy rain. Improve your soil by adding compost, aerating, and grass-cycling (leave clippings on the lawn).

### **If you water, water wisely.**

Lawns will go dormant during hot, dry weather and turn brown. This is a good option if you want to save water and reduce mowing. In the fall, grass will come out of dormancy and green up. To maintain a green lawn in extended hot dry periods, water 5-10 minutes (1/10") a day in the heat of the day (1-2pm) every day it does not rain. On especially hot, dry days, water twice in early and late afternoon. In extended droughts, water for about 30 minutes every 2-3 weeks (1/2").

## PAH Dialogue: Esselman Responds to Applicator

Thanks for contacting us about this matter. We have been keeping apprised of this matter for the last 5-10 years, but have found it very difficult to find clear answers. Every study that has been conducted has been questioned as to its methodology and analysis of results, and the lobbyists for both sides seem to muddle all the information. I've found it very difficult to find clear, concise answers on this subject.

Having said that, there are alternatives available here in Michigan. Most don't have the same longevity as coal-tar sealants and are on average 25% more expensive. So our customers would end up seeing 25% cost increases for their sealing projects. I have to imagine at that point, some or many would stop sealing/maintaining their asphalt. So our company would experience a decrease in profits and would have to lay off employees.

I haven't researched what economic repercussions have been experienced by businesses in communities that experience coal tar bans, nor have I seen what, if any, repercussions there are to property values as the asphalt driveways and parking lots decline more quickly. But those are both items I would appreciate Meridian Township investigating prior to instituting a coal-tar ban. I would also be interested in having Meridian Township research if there are any studies showing that the communities that have banned coal-tar have seen a decrease in the carcinogens in their water table after the ban has been in place. I believe California instituted a ban a number of years ago, so I would assume there is current data available showing a decrease directly related to the ban of coal-tar sealers.

If you have any questions about my thoughts, please let me know. Our office number is 517-694-9033. Thanks again for the opportunity to share my thoughts. Amanda Hayhoe, Hayhoe Asphalt

### Response from Rebecca –

I have just returned after a couple of weeks out of the office. I can address a few of the issues Amanda brings up.

On cost, when inquiring with manufactures that sell both coal tar and asphalt based, they stated that the two products are very close in price, though they did also say that the asphalt based is subject to fluctuations in petroleum prices. I do know that two local business that only work with the safe sealants are economically viable and can deliver competitive bids with companies applying coal tar. I have their info below if you want to discuss this with an applicator.

- Tuff Coat Sealcoating, [www.tuffcoatsealcoating.com](http://www.tuffcoatsealcoating.com), 248-673-4445, Waterford, MI
- Anthony's Asphalt, [www.sealmeplease.com](http://www.sealmeplease.com), (734) 424-9553, Dexter, MI

Pertaining to her interest in knowing if reducing high PAH sealant use reduces PAHs in the environment, Austin Texas provides the best example. They have had the longest restrictions in place. Ten years after the ordinance went into effect, researchers measured a 58% decline in PAH content in lake sediments. California is not a good example because coal tar based sealing is not common there. Since most of the source product (the coal tar) is produced in steel production areas, it is not economical to ship the product west of the Rockies. In that region, asphalt based products are the norm.

I do not have any information on the implication for property values. I have heard diverse opinions as to whether or not there are longevity differences among sealant formulations and even between sealing regularly and not sealing at all. I do not have an opinion on this one as I do not have the experience with different pavement maintenance practices to know what works best.

It is true that research on this topic is regularly scrutinized and called into question. I have looked at this one closely. All the scrutiny is coming from one source and that is the PCTC (and scientists they work with) which is the industry group that represents the manufactures. I believe it to be a tactic to bring uncertainty to the issue in the spirit of discouraging action to move away from this pollution source.

## PAH Memo to Board (draft)



**To:** Board Members  
**From:** LeRoy Harvey, Environmental Programs  
**Date:** August 30, 2018  
**Re:** Potential Ban on Certain Sealcoats (containing PAHs)

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Studies by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), academic institutions, and State and local agencies have identified coal-tar-based pavement sealcoat as a major source of PAH contamination and a concern for human health and aquatic life. Several countries, the State of Minnesota and over a dozen Michigan communities have banned the use of coal-tar-based sealants containing high levels of PAHs. The Meridian Environmental Commission recommends that the Township also place a ban on coal tar-based sealcoats and other sealcoats with high levels of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH).

As coal-tar-based sealcoat ages, it wears into small particles that can be tracked into homes and incorporated into house dust. For people who live adjacent to coal-tar-sealcoated pavement, ingestion of PAH-contaminated house dust and soil results in an elevated potential cancer risk, particularly for young children. Exposure, especially early in childhood, has been linked to increased risk of lung, skin, bladder, and respiratory cancers. Runoff from coal-tar-sealcoated pavement, even runoff collected more than 3 months after application, is acutely toxic to fathead minnows and water fleas, two species commonly used to assess toxicity to aquatic life. Exposure to even highly diluted runoff from coal-tar-sealcoated pavement can cause DNA damage and impair DNA repair. These findings demonstrate that coal-tar-sealcoat runoff can remain a risk to aquatic life for months after application.

In February, the Environmental Commission invited Rebecca Esselman, Huron River Watershed Council, to discuss this topic at our April 4th meeting. View her presentation here: <http://meridianmi.swagit.com/play/04042018-870> We have since contacted groups familiar with the issue, Michigan municipalities, and local sealcoat applicators to share information and gather their perspectives. While communities may initially face some resistance from contractors, cost-effective alternatives exist. Many contractors offer alternatives. Stores like Home Depot and Menards only sell alternatives.

Other resources:

- Bans: Ann Arbor <http://bit.ly/A2-BAN> Minnesota: <http://bit.ly/PAH-MN>
- The State of Michigan Proposed Legislation HB 5174: <http://bit.ly/PAH-MI>
- Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council: <http://bit.ly/pah-TIP>

Please let us know if you have questions and would potentially join 15 other Michigan Communities in creating a ban on the use of high-PAH sealcoats in our community. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

## GREEN THEME SCHEDULE AND TOPICS

Sep 5	Brent Forsberg	"Green" Placemaking
Oct 3	Karim Chatti	Pavement Preservation
Nov 7 -	Cathy DeShambo	East Lansing Environmental Initiatives
Dec 5	Garry Rowe	Wellhead Protection
<b>2019</b>		
Jan 2 or 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wetland Person – model ordinances – Elise Tripp?</li> <li>• Blue Trails -- (large county grant)</li> </ul>	
Feb 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Burial Plots (Williamstown Twp – Wanda B.)</li> <li>• Green Building</li> </ul>	
Mar 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Salt: Suggested by Rebecca Essleman</li> </ul>	
Apr 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Radon (Susan)</li> </ul>	
May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EL's Sustainable Building Ordinance – Green Building</li> <li>• 100% Renewable Goal of Traverse City – Kate Madigan (John)</li> </ul>	
Jun 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ecological Landscaping – Bill Schneider - WildType</li> </ul>	
Jul 3 or 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wayfinding: (related to our 2018 goals)</li> </ul>	
Aug	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Greenspace Plan</b></li> </ul>	
Sep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Climate Sustainability - review ordinances</b></li> </ul>	
Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Relation between Greening and Economic Development/ attracting green businesses</b></li> <li>• <b>Collaboration with the Land Preservation Advisory Board</b></li> </ul>	
Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green chemistry (Ned)</li> <li>• Green Businesses</li> </ul>	
Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ (Hopcat has a landfill/waste diversion is 90%)</li> <li>○ Buddies' composting food waste <a href="https://livegreenlansing.org/scraps-to-soil/">https://livegreenlansing.org/scraps-to-soil/</a></li> <li>○ Others? Possibly a "Green Panel" of business people</li> </ul>	

### View Past Green Themes:

<http://recycle.meridian.mi.us/growgreen/> or

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6qFiWiZQA9A&list=PLYCL9BfEG5RX5LMXKoAde3LCmdRhwrCF>