



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
October 9, 2019 6 PM

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. APPROVE AGENDA
3. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS
4. APPROVE MINUTES
 - A. September 11, 2019
5. COMMUNICATIONS
6. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Davis Foster Preserve Barn
 - B. Tree Bank Ordinance
7. NEW BUSINESS
8. STAFF REPORT
 - A. 2019 Management Plan Update
9. COMMENT FROM THE PUBLIC
10. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS
11. ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - A. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, November 13, 2019, 6 pm, Meridian Service Center
12. CLOSED SESSION (separate envelope)
13. 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

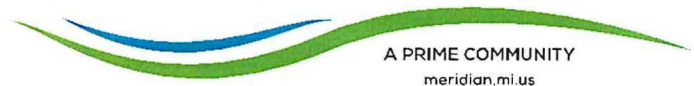
October 9, 2019 6 PM

4. APPROVE OF MINUTES
A. September 11, 2019

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett
Meridian Service Center Lunchroom
Wednesday, September 19, 2019 6 PM

PRESENT: Chair, Jon Mayes; Vice-chair, James Kielbaso; Board Member Roland Harmes, Board Member Jamie Hiller; Board Member Mark Stephens
ABSENT: Board Member Kirk Lapham; Board Member Yu Man Lee
STAFF: Jane Greenway, Parks and Land Management Coordinator; Kelsey Dillon, Park Naturalist and Stewardship Coordinator
TOWNSHIP: Township Trustee, Dan Opsommer
OTHER: None

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Mayes called the meeting to order at 6 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Opsommer moved **TO APPROVE THE AGENDA**. Seconded by Board Member Kielbaso.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

3. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

4. APPROVE MINUTES

Trustee Opsommer moved **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF July 10, 2019 REGULAR MEETING**. Seconded by Board Member Stephens.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

None

6. OLD BUSINESS

None

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Davis Foster Preserve Barn Discussion

- Board members instructed staff to get quotes on the barn restoration.

B. Tree Bank Discussion

- LPAB members reviewed the Tree Protection Ordinance from Canton, Michigan.
- Members liked the idea of creating a tree bank system that would benefit the parks, land preserves and open spaces in Meridian Township.

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- Board members instructed staff to research tree banking ordinances and work with the planning department to develop a draft for review.
- C. 2019 Deer Management Program Overview
- Staff reviewed the program with LPAB members.
 - Board Member Roland Harmes is concerned with using ground blinds in the program.

8. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

9. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

None

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, October 9, 2019, 6 pm, Meridian Service Center

11. CLOSED SESSION

Board Member Hiller moved **TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION**. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

Roll Call:

AYES: Chair, Jon Mayes; Vice-chair, James Kielbaso; Board Member Roland Harmes, Board Member Jamie Hiller; Board Member Mark Stephens; Township Trustee, Dan Opsommer

NAYS: None

The Board moved into closed session at 7:52 pm.

Trustee Opsommer moved **TO ADJOURN THE CLOSED SESSION AND RETURN TO THE OPEN SESSION**. Seconded by Board Member Stephens.

Roll Call:

AYES: Chair, Jon Mayes; Vice-chair, James Kielbaso; Board Member Roland Harmes, Board Member Jamie Hiller; Board Member Mark Stephens; Township Trustee, Dan Opsommer

NAYS: None

The Board reopened the meeting at 8:00 pm.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Board Member Hiller moved **TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer. Chair Mayes adjourned the meeting at 8:01 pm.



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
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5. Communications

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Kelsey Dillon



Rollie Harmes Consultant

Meeting Environmental & Natural Resource Challenges



Jane Greenway

9-16-2019

Re: Land preservation Advisory Board

This is to confirm that I resigned from L.P.A.B. on 9/16/2019. I really enjoyed the 4 yrs of working with the Twp in various meetings and field reviews.

Currently, I need to pay attention to my Natural Resource & Environmental Consulting business. In addition, I am available to assist my children while their mother is on life assistance in Fla. There are numerous issues that I will need to help resolve in the days ahead.

I will continue to monitor the terms of the Cornell Rd "Natural Beauty Road" designation that I was able to obtain from the Ingham Co. Rd Commission & Twp Trustees about 50 years ago. I will weigh in with the Twp on fire control, abandoned barns, Foster drain & the white tail deer population control.

You are aware that I remain against the use of ground blinds on Township & County land preserves by those archery hunting while citizens are using the public lands for other purposes at the same time.

My hunting experiences have taken me to Africa - 5; Russia - 2; New Zealand - 1; Canada - 10; S America - 1; USA western states - 10. Mark Horner & I have hunted together without any problems, but paid close attention to Rules, Regulations, guides & had pre planning before travel. Others were not so lucky due to serious accidents.

I pray that hunters using public lands in the Township never cause an accident and that the officials in Mercedes Twp pay attention to possible conflicts.

S

Zollie Horner

Cs. Twp Supervisor
Twp Clerk

Jon Mayer



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6. Old Business

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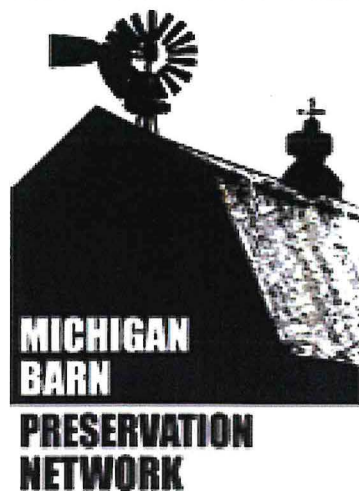


To the Members of the Meridian Township Land Preservation Advisory Board,

I have been informed that the LPAB will be discussing the disposition of the Davis Foster barn during your regular meetings. I wish to express my hearty support of rehabilitating and using the barn as a valuable amenity of the Davis Foster Preserve. 19th century barns such as the Davis Foster barn are rapidly becoming increasingly scarce as days go by. Having one in public ownership represents a unique asset that can be used creatively for the benefit of Meridian Township residents for years to come.

There are several instances of Cities, Townships, Counties and Historical Organizations in Michigan, that have taken advantage of owning and using such a barn to great advantage. Being a former Meridian Township Trustee I am aware of the high value that citizens and leadership place on park and open space. The Davis Foster barn could be used in a creative way to enhance the value of the Davis Foster Preserve.

Sincerely,
Steve Stier, Chair
Technical Committee



Land Preservation Advisory Board

Tree Preservation Ordinance Discussion

Discussion Questions:

1. Do we require a removal permit and tree survey under this ordinance? Which office handles the permits and the inspections of the sites? Who reviews permits?
2. Do we stress replacement on the development property or just payment into the Tree Bank Fund? Canton stresses replacement first and if it's not feasible they pay into the bank. Who determines whether or not replacement is feasible?
3. What definition of DBH do we use?
4. What is the caliper size we use for the replacement trees? How many of these trees equals a removed landmark tree?
5. Did we cover all of the important landmark trees? Do the DBHs of the landmark trees make sense?
6. Is this ordinance just for developers or does it also apply to residents on their private property?
7. Still exclude boxelder (acer negundo), ash (fraxinus spp) and cottonwood (populus spp)?
8. How to exclude all invasive species such as Tree of Heaven, Buckthorn, Autumn Olive, etc.
9. Does it make sense to give one fee for all trees or break it down by species?
10. How many trees do we require for every landmark tree to be removed? Canton said three.
 - Ex. every time a "landmark tree" is removed we say the cost of three replacement trees 1-2" caliper size would be \$1,200. Therefore the developer pays \$1,200 per every landmark tree removed.
11. What do we believe a fair fee is for non-landmark trees? Do we only focus on the landmark trees?

Tree Bank Fund

The Township will establish a dedicated budget category called the "Tree Bank Fund". Monies received by the Township for tree mitigation will be deposited into the dedicated Tree Bank Fund. The Tree Bank Fund shall only be used to cover costs for tree purchases, planting, pruning or maintenance costs of young trees. The Tree Bank Fund may be used to plant appropriate sized and species of trees in the street right-of-way, parks, land preserves, public areas, riparian areas or other areas identified by the Township.

Tree Preservation Ordinance

****This is a modified version of Canton Michigan's tree protection ordinance****

Yellow highlighted areas are possible points for discussion.

Purpose.

The purpose of this article is to promote an increased quality of life through the regulation, maintenance and protection of trees, forests and other natural resources.

Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Agriculture/farming means any land in which the principal use is to derive income from the growing of plants and trees, including but not limited to land used principally for fruit and timber production.

Caliper means the diameter of a tree trunk measured six inches (15 cm) above ground level for trees up to four-inch caliper and 12 inches above the ground for larger sizes.

Clear cutting means the complete clearing, cutting or removal of trees and vegetation.

Commercial nursery/tree farm means any commercial establishment which is licensed by the state or federal government for the planting, growing and sale of live trees, shrubs, plants and plant materials for gardening and landscaping purposes.

Developed property means any land which is either currently used for residential, commercial, industrial, or agricultural purposes or is under construction of a new building, reconstruction of an existing building or improvement of a structure on a parcel or lot, the relocation of an existing building to another lot, or the improvement of open land for a new use.

Diameter at breast height (DBH) means the diameter in inches of the tree measured at four feet and six inches above the existing grade.

Dripline means an imaginary vertical line that extends downward from the outermost tips of the tree branches to the ground.

Forest means any treed area of one-half acre or more, containing at least 28 trees with a DBH of six inches or more.

Grade means the ground elevation.

Grubbing means the effective removal of under-canopy vegetation from a site. This shall not include the removal of any trees.

Landmark/historic tree means any tree which stands apart from neighboring trees by size, form or species, as specified in the landmark tree list in section X.X or any tree, except box elder, catalpa, poplar, silver maple, tree of heaven, elm or willow, which has a DBH of 24 inches or more.

Single-family lot means any piece of land under single ownership and control that is two acres or more in size and used for residential purposes.

Township tree fund means a fund established for maintenance and preservation of forest areas and the planting and maintenance of trees within the township.

Tree means any woody plant with at least one well-defined stem and having a minimum DBH of three inches.

Undeveloped property means any property in its natural state that is neither being used for residential, commercial, industrial or agricultural purposes nor under construction.

Interpretation; conflicts with other ordinances.

The provisions of this article shall be construed, if possible, in such a manner as to make such provisions compatible and consistent with the provisions of all existing and future zoning and other ordinances of the township and all amendments thereto. If there is believed to be a conflict between the stated intent and any specific provision of this article, the township board may, in accordance with established zoning ordinance procedures, permit modification of such specific provisions while retaining the intent in such appealed instance.

Notice of violation; issuance of appearance ticket.

If a violation of this article is noted, the ordinance inspector will notify the owner of record and the occupant of the property of the violation. Such notice shall specify the violation and the time

within which corrective action must be completed. This notice may be served personally or by mail. If the property is not in compliance with this article at the end of the period specified in the notice of violation, an appearance ticket may be issued.

Tree removal permit.

A. Required.

1. The removal or relocation of any tree with a DBH of six inches or greater on any property without first obtaining a tree removal permit shall be prohibited.
2. The removal, damage or destruction of any landmark tree without first obtaining a tree removal permit shall be prohibited.
3. The removal, damage or destruction of any tree located within a forest without first obtaining a tree removal permit is prohibited.
4. Clear cutting or grubbing within the dripline of a forest without first obtaining a tree removal permit is prohibited.

B. Exemptions. All agricultural/farming operations, commercial nursery/tree farm operations and occupied lots of less than two acres in size, including utility companies and public tree trimming agencies, shall be exempt from all permit requirements of this article.

C. Display. Tree removal permits shall be continuously displayed for the entire period while the trees are being removed.

D. Application. Permits shall be obtained by submitting a tree removal permit application in a form provided by the municipal services department. The application shall *include a tree survey conducted not more than two years prior to the date of application* and contain the following information:

1. The owner and/or occupant of the land on which the tree is located.
2. The legal description of the property on which the tree is located.
3. A description of the area affected by the tree removal, including tree species mixture, sampling of tree size and the notation of unusual, scarce or endangered trees.
4. A description of each tree to be removed, including diseased or damaged trees, and the location thereof.
5. A general description of the affected area after the proposed tree removal.

E. Review procedures. Municipal services shall review the applications for tree removal permits and may impose such conditions on the manner and extent of the proposed activity as are necessary to ensure that the activity or use will be conducted in such a manner as will cause the least possible damage, encroachment or interference with natural resources and natural processes within the affected area.

F. Review standards. The following standards shall be used to review the applications for tree removal permits:

1. The protection and conservation of irreplaceable natural resources from pollution, impairment or destruction is of paramount concern. The preservation of landmark/historic trees, forest trees, similar woody vegetation and related natural

resources shall have priority over development when there are other on-site location alternatives.

2. The tree shall be evaluated for effect on the quality of the area of location, including tree species, habitat quality, health and vigor of tree, tree size and density. Consideration must be given to scenic assets, wind blocks and noise buffers.

3. The trees and surrounding area shall be evaluated for the quality of the involved area by considering the following:

- a. Soil quality as it relates to potential tree disruption.
- b. Habitat quality.
- c. Tree species (including diversity of tree species).
- d. Tree size and density.
- e. Health and vigor of tree stand.
- f. Understory species and quality.
- g. Other factors such as value of the trees as an environmental asset (i.e., cooling effect, etc.).

4. The removal or relocation of trees within the affected areas shall be limited to instances:

- a. Where necessary for the location of a structure or site improvement and when no reasonable or prudent alternative location for such structure or improvement can be had without causing undue hardship.
- b. Where the tree is dead, diseased, injured and in danger of falling too close to proposed or existing structures, or interferes with existing utility service, interferes with safe vision clearances or conflicts with other ordinances or regulations.
- c. Where removal or relocation of the tree is consistent with good forestry practices or if it will enhance the health of remaining trees.

5. The burden of demonstrating that no feasible or prudent alternative location or improvement without undue hardship shall be upon the applicant.

6. Tree removal shall not commence prior to approval of a site plan, final site plan for site condominiums or final preliminary plat for the subject property.

XX List of landmark/historic trees.

Landmark/historic trees are as follows:

Common Name	Species	DBH
Arborvitae	<i>Thuja occidentalis</i>	18"
American Basswood	<i>Tilia americana</i>	24"
American Beech	<i>Fagus grandifolia</i>	18"
American Chestnut	<i>Castanea</i>	8"
Birch	<i>Betula spp.</i>	18"

Black Tupelo	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>	12"
Black Walnut	<i>Juglans nigra</i>	20"
White Walnut	<i>Juglans cinerea</i>	20"
Buckeye (Horse Chestnut)	<i>Aesculus glabra</i>	18"
Cedar, Red	<i>Juniperus</i> spp.	12"
Crabapple (cultivar)	<i>Malus</i> spp.	12"
Douglas Fir	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>	18"
Eastern Hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>	12"
Fir	<i>Abies</i> spp.	18"
Flowering Dogwood	<i>Cornus florida</i>	8"
Ginkgo	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	18"
Hackberry	<i>Celtis occidentalis</i>	18"
Hickory	<i>Carya</i> spp.	18"
Honey Locust	<i>Gleditsia triacanthos</i>	24"
Kentucky Coffeetree	<i>Gymnocladus dioicus</i>	18"
Larch/tamarack	<i>Larix laricina</i> (Eastern)	12"
Sycamore/London Planetree	<i>Platanus</i> spp.	18"
Maple	<i>Acer</i> spp.(except <i>negundo</i> and <i>saccharinum</i>)	18"
Oak	<i>Quercus</i> spp.	20"
Pine	<i>Pinus</i> spp.	18"
Sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>	15"

Spruce	Picea spp.	18"
Tuliptree	Liriodendron tulipifera	18"
Cherry	Prunus spp.	18"

Protective barriers.

It shall be unlawful to develop, clear, fill or commence any activity for which a use permit is required in or around a landmark/historic tree or forest without first erecting a continuous protective barrier around the perimeter dripline.

Relocation or replacement of trees.

A. *Landmark tree replacement.* Whenever a tree removal permit is issued for the removal of any landmark tree with a DBH of six inches or greater, such trees shall be relocated or replaced by the permit grantee. Every landmark/historic tree that is removed shall be replaced by three trees with a minimum caliper of 1-2 inches. Such trees will be of the species from section X.X.

B. *Replacement of other trees.* Whenever a tree removal permit is issued for the removal of trees, other than landmark/historic trees, with a DBH of six inches or greater (excluding boxelder (acer negundo), ash (fraxinus spp) and cottonwood (populus spp)), such trees shall be relocated or replaced by the permit grantee if more than 25 percent of the total inventory of regulated trees is removed. Tree replacement shall be done in accordance with the following: If the replacement trees are of at least two-inch caliper at six inches above the ground or eight-foot height for evergreens, but less than three inches measured at six inches above the ground or nine-foot height for evergreens, the permit grantee shall be given credit for replacing one tree. If the replacement trees are of at least three-inch caliper at six inches above the ground or nine-foot height for evergreens, but less than four inches measured at 12 inches above the ground or ten-foot height for evergreens, the permit grantee shall be given credit for replacing 1½ trees. If the replacement trees are of at least four-inch caliper at 12 inches above the ground or ten-foot height for evergreens, the permit grantee shall be given credit for replacing two trees.

C. *Exemptions.* All agricultural/farming operations, commercial nursery/tree farm operations and occupied lots of less than two acres shall not be required to replace or relocate removed trees.

D. *Replacement tree standards.* All replacement trees shall:

1. Meet both the American Association of Nurserymen Standards and the requirements of the state department of agriculture.
2. Be nursery grown.
3. Be guaranteed for two years, including labor to remove and dispose of dead material.

4. Be replaced immediately after the removal of the existing tree, in accordance with the American Association of Nurserymen standards.

5. Be of the same species or plant community as the removed trees. When replacement trees of the same species are not available from Michigan nurseries, the applicant may substitute any species listed in X.X provided that shade trees are substituted with shade trees and evergreen trees with evergreen species.

Ornamental trees need not necessarily be replaced with ornamental trees, but this shall be encouraged where feasible.

Tree Bank Fund. Wherever possible, replacement trees must be located on the same parcel of land on which the activity is to be conducted. Where tree relocation or replacement is not possible on the same property on which the activity is to be conducted, the permit grantee shall pay monies into the Township "Tree Bank Fund" for tree replacement within the Township. These monies shall be equal to the per-tree amount representing the current market value for the tree replacement that would have been otherwise required.



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

October 9, 2019 6 PM

8. Staff Report

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MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP LAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM

2019 MANAGEMENT PLAN

Land Preservation Signs

Land Preserves without signs:

- Davis Foster Preserve (1) – west side of the road
- Lake Lansing South Preserve (8)
- Tihart/Cornell Wetland (11)
- Southwest Meridian Uplands (12) – two neighborhood entrances
- Towner Road Wetland (15)
- Red Cedar River East (17)
- Tank Wetland (20)
- Nemoke Preserve (24)

*Planning on ordering most of these signs by the end of 2019

Property Boundary Marker Posts & Installation

- New parcel in Towar Woods (7) – 1 acre on Biber St.

Signage

Preserves with trail systems will receive trailhead signs. The signs integrate the rules and a map of the trails (same design as new parks trail signs)

- Towar Woods (7)
- Central Meridian Uplands (9) – wait until MSU to Lake Lansing paved pathway is complete
- Southwest Meridian Uplands (12)
- Tihart Preserve (21)
- Ponderosa Preserve (23)

“No Yard Waste Dumping” signs ordered for Serafine and Sower Woods, 4 additional signs for other preserves as needed

Site Restoration

Site restoration refers to anything that increases ecosystem health within the preserve. Our preserve projects for 2019 are as follows:

- Davis Foster (1)
 - Prescribed burn in spring 2019
 - Basal bark treatment of Autumn Olive
 - 90 students from Murphy Elementary participated in the seed ball project
 - Stewardship Day to remove invasive species on Saturday, November 2nd from 9:30am -12pm
- Towar Woods (7)
 - 4 acres of clearing buckthorn and downed trees – to be planted with trees
 - Tree planting – 175 trees
 - \$1,000 received as a generous donation to the tree planting project for 2019

- Welded wire cages around 150 trees that out grew the Blue X tubes
 - Weed control around the newly planted trees
 - Buckthorn basal bark herbicide treatments
 - Stewardship Day removing invasive species
- Southwest Meridian Uplands (12)
 - Continue grassland/prairie monitoring into 2019
 - Start removal of invasive shrubs
 - Control herbaceous invasive species in field areas (mostly spotted knapweed)
 - Serafine (northern part of 12)
 - Continue management plan implementation of shrubby invasive species removal and containment of Reed Canary Grass
 - HOA paid for native plants to enhance the grassland area
 - Workday with neighbors on June 15th to remove yard waste
 - Red Cedar Glen (14)
 - Continue the removal of invasive autumn olive with neighbors
 - Stewardship Day removing invasive species
 - Contract prairie planting at Tihart Preserve property (21)
 - On hold, looking into possible grants to help with the cost
 - Create Management Plan
 - Ponderosa Preserve (23)
 - Contract Japanese/Bohemian Knotweed Removal
 - Contractor will perform management over a four year period – 2018-22
 - Treated for second year September 2019
 - Garlic Mustard removal next spring
 - Create Management Plan
 - Sower Woods
 - Land Preservation Board approved up to \$300 to grow native goldenrod species collected from Sower Woods
 - Over 100 blue stem and zigzag goldenrod planted
 - Stewardship Day on October 17th from 9:30am-12pm
 - Lake Lansing North
 - Stewardship Day collecting seed from native understory plants
 - Prescribed fire recommendation for fall 2020
 - Northridge Preserve
 - Phragmites treatment

Other Projects

- Bird observation deck at Davis Foster (1)
 - Design and Build project
 - Going to use the same contractor and bid document as the nature center bird overlook