



**Environmental Commission
Meeting Packet: February 5, 2020**

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Agenda: February 5 2020 (draft)

TOWN HALL MEETING ROOM, 5151 Marsh Rd., Okemos MI

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER AT 7:00 PM
2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
4. PUBLIC REMARKS
5. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. New Appointment (Liaison)
 - B. Plastic Discussion
 - C. Goals and Next Steps
 - D. Other
6. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Township Board Meeting Presentation February 18
 - a. Climate Emergency Resolution
 - b. Climate Sustainability Report
 - c. PAH Ban
 - B. Wetland Bank
 - C. Other
7. CHAIR'S REPORT
8. STAFF REPORT
9. COMMISSION/LIASON/WORKGROUP REPORTS
 - A. Tree Team
 - B. Planning
 - C. Land Preservation
 - D. Energy
 - E. Brownfield Redevelopment Authority
 - F. Green Team
 - G. Transportation
10. PUBLIC REMARKS
11. ADJOURNMENT

January Minutes (draft)

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
NELSON ROOM, PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING, OKEMOS
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2020 7:00 PM

PRESENT: Bill McConnell; Ned Jackson; John Sarver; Jim Kielbaso; Kirk Lapham; Susan Masten, Rose Vadnais, Dave Premoe (Planning Commission Liaison)

STAFF: LeRoy Harvey, Environmental Programs Coordinator

GUESTS: Trustee Courtney Wisinski, Susan Andrews, Matty Reynolds (MSU), Courney Boersema (MSU)

Agenda: Approved with addition under “New Business” of “Selection of Officers”

Minutes: Minutes from December approved with changes.

Public Comments: None

New Business:

2020 Officer Selection: Lapham was nominated and approved as Chair. Sarver was approved as Vice Chair for 2020.

Meeting Times and Locations for 2020

- February 5 Town Hall Room, Municipal Building
 - *March 4 Community Room, Main Fire Station
 - April 1 Town Hall Room, Municipal Building
 - May 6 Town Hall Room, Municipal Building
 - June 3 Town Hall Room, Municipal Building
 - July 1 Town Hall Room, Municipal Building
 - *August 5 Community Room, Main Fire Station
 - September 2 Town Hall Room, Municipal Building
 - October 7 Town Hall Room, Municipal Building
 - *November 4 Community Room, Main Fire Station
 - December 2 Town Hall Room, Municipal Building
- *Note: Change of location

Goals for 2020

Assist with Tree Planting Initiative

Implement Climate Action Plan

- Green Infrastructure Review
- Green Building Code
- Waste Reduction (plastic bags, etc.)

Recommend Township Support of PAH Ordinance

Ongoing Tasks/Responsibilities

- Organize and Host Green Theme Presentations
- Review Wetland Permits
- Continue Environmental Stewardship Awards
- Communicate with other Commissions, Boards, Trustees (liaison)

OLD BUSINESS

Township Board Meeting on Jan 21 (6pm)

Several Environmental Commission-related items are likely on the agenda for Jan 21. Environmental Commission Members are invited to attend. LeRoy and Derek will be there. Sarver and Masten may be able to attend as well. Items include:

- Climate Sustainability Report
- Climate Emergency Resolution
- Coal Tar-Based (and other high PAH) Sealant Ban
- Trustee Liaison with Environmental Commission Appointment
- (Wetland Ordinance Update will be February)

Jan 28 (Joint Board and Commissions Meeting) 6pm: Lapham is able to attend this meeting.

Commissioner Appointments: Rose Vadnais was appointed to the Environmental Commission. McConnell and Kielbaso were reappointed by the Township Board.

Wetland Bank: A map was distributed describing potential wetland disturbance – and potential need for mitigation – related to a Wetland Bank. The Commission would like the Township’s Wetland Consultant to review the Linn Property for the potential for a wetland bank and the potential size. Kielbaso also mentioned the possibility that the Drain Commission might also be interested in helping with site improvements. The Land Preservation Board will also discuss at their next meeting.

Reports:

Chair’s Report: January 8 will be our next meeting. We will set remaining meeting dates at that time – normally on the 1st Wednesday.

Staff Report: Harvey referred to his update in the Packet. Vadnais asked about electric charging. LeRoy also mentioned the State Grant and Consumers’ Incentives to create a network of fast-charging points across the state. Green Team is having a table at the Farmers Market in the Mall. The relocation of Recycling Center will be looked at this year. There’s a survey underway to get feedback on the existing Center.

Tree Team: Kielbaso provided a brief update describing some of his research on tree prices and relate protective covering and stakes. Larger trees can cost \$200-400. There was also an update in the packet describing a focus in the Okemos and Haslett school district. LeRoy has contacted the Grounds Supervisor at Okemos and there is interest in collaborating. McConnell suggests that the Tree Team work up a couple alternatives for the E.C. to review. Wisinski reaffirmed that \$10,000 has been set aside.

Planning: Premoe The Board has backed off of the Trash Can ordinance (requiring residents to wheel their carts back promptly). The Planning Commission committed to adopting Form-Based Codes in 2020. (more specific language related to the Grand River Corridor and general/broad guidelines in other areas). The Planning Board recently rejected a project on Dobie Rd. Another project on Bennett Rd is moving forward. This will include a buffer/natural/wetland area that has satisfied initial objections. The Commission will also be discussing marijuana dispensaries in the coming year. McConnell also mentioned the Wooden Skate property which has surfaced discussion about the appropriateness of commercial development further east on Grand River.

Land Preservation: There has been the addition of 23 acres to the Land Preservation space. The LPB has not met for a couple months.

Energy Team: Sarver mentions the meeting with Consumers about electric charging stations, the Water Treatment Plant, and a potential battery storage pilot. There is \$100,000 for two more 20 KW photovoltaic systems and an RFP is moving forward to be released soon.

Brownfield Redevelopment Authority: McConnell attended the last meeting. There is discussion about brownfield projects at Elevation and 4 corners (Jolly and Okemos Rd.)

Green Team: The Farmers Market info table was

Transportation Commission: McConnell reports that the County Road Department will be performing a safety improvement (4 to 3 lane conversions) on Jolly, Central Park Dr. and Lake Lansing. MDOT is also planning improvements on M-43. The Bridge Replacement is also under discussion including a pedestrian walkway under the bridge and a boat launch. McConnell is also interested in a microhydro project in the old mill race and invites others who share this interest.

Public Remarks: None

Meeting Adjourned: 8:50 pm.

Next Meeting: February 5 at 7pm (Please send agenda items to harvey@meridian.mi.us)

Staff Update

Recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning for 2020 including Sponsorship, Outreach, Vendors, etc. • Table at Mall/Farmers Market (1st and 3rd Saturday 10am-noon or longer) • Attended a Recycling Markets Discussion (EGLE, Michigan Recycling Coalition, etc.) and presentation on new Lansing Material Recovery Facility to be built in 2020 • Planning for Lansing Home and Garden Show at MSU Pavilion in March
Green Infrastructure Map	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with MSU-Community Sustainability Class to present on Meridian Projects • A 4-5 student team will help with developing a Green Infrastructure Tour
Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Team Met to discuss Climate Action Incentives and follow up to Electric Charging Grant Opportunities • RFP is under development for 2 more 20KW PV solar arrays
Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with Communication Dept. to discuss DPW communication priorities including recycling events, sewer, roads, flooding, MS4 requirements, etc. • February Green Gazette published. Subscribe here. Please send ideas to harvey@meridian.mi.us (past issues: https://www.meridian.mi.us/residents/township-services/recycle-go-green) • Responded to call-in, social media, and email info requests
Environmental Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided staff support to E.C. (minutes, packet, etc.)
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with Emma Campbell, new Park Naturalist • Prepared staff survey related to Municipal Building remodel