



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
February 12, 2020 6 PM

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. INTRODUCTIONS
 - A. Steve Thomas, Board Member
 - B. Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator
3. APPROVE AGENDA
4. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS
5. APPROVE MINUTES
 - A. December 11, 2019 Minutes
6. COMMUNICATIONS
7. OLD BUSINESS
8. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Election of Officers
 - B. Resolution of Appreciation, Roland Harmes
9. STAFF REPORT
 - A. Stewardship Coordinator 2020 Work Plan
10. COMMENT FROM THE PUBLIC
11. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS
12. ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - A. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, March 11 2020, 6 pm,
Meridian Service Center
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

February 12, 2020 6 PM

2. INTRODUCTIONS

A. Steve Thomas, Board Member

B. Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator

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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Submitter DB ID 9082
IP Address 2602:306:ce03:4aa0:ac09:332f:22cb:aad9
Submission Recorded On 10/27/2019 8:49 PM
Time to Take the Survey 12 minutes, 50 secs.

Page 1



Public Service Application Form

I am interested in service on one or more of the following public bodies as checked below:

***Special conditions restrict eligibility for appointment**

1.

Land Preservation Advisory Board

2. **Occupation:**

Ecologist

3. **Indicate areas not included above which may warrant special attention or study that are of interest to you:**

Not answered

4. **Describe education, experience or training which will assist you if appointed:**

I am a professional ecologist and a fifteen year resident of Meridian Township. Please refer to the attached letter and resume. Thank you.

5. **Contact Information:**

Name: Steve Thomas

Occupation: Ecologist

Place of Employment:

Home Address: 2372 Sower Blvd., Okemos, MI 48864

Environmental Consulting & Technology, Inc. (ECT Inc.)

Phone (days): (517) 755-0851

Phone (evenings): (517) 755-0851

Date: 10/27/2019

6. **Attach Resume**

Resume is attached [S.Thomas.resume.2019.pdf](#)

7. **Attach Cover Letter**

Cover Letter is attached [S.Thomas.letter.2019.pdf](#)

Steve A. Thomas

Ecological Assessment and Planning Soil, Water, Vegetation, and Natural Communities

Skills and Experience

- *Wetlands and Hydrology* – wetland delineations, integrity assessments, functional assessments, mapping, mitigation design and monitoring, wetland use permits and review, hydrological measurement and analysis, streambank stability assessments, erosion control.
- *Natural Communities* – natural community classification and mapping, ecological restoration planning and implementation, fire ecology, prairie and forest development and succession, threatened and endangered species habitat assessments, wildlife impact assessments.
- *Vegetation* – plant identification, threatened and endangered species surveys, vegetation surveys, tree surveys, invasive plant surveys and control, planting plans.
- *Landuse* – environmental impact assessment, rare species protection, relations between land cover, vegetation, and water.
- *Technical Writing* – prepare and edit technical reports, EIS documents, permit applications, plans, proposals, and correspondence.
- *Additional* – teaching, Chicago Wilderness collaboration, incorporating community values, LEED Neighborhood Design, complex system sustainability, Native American tribal liaison, working with volunteers, working with youths, ArcGIS, Microsoft Word and Excel, helicopter flight.

Education

MS in Watershed Science, 2003, Colorado State University, Fort Collins.

BS in Botany and in Mechanical Engineering, 1991, University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Employment History

Senior Ecologist – 2018 to present, Environmental Consulting and Technology, Lansing, Michigan.

Ecologist III – 2012 to 2018, Atwell LLC, Southfield, Michigan.

Associate Ecologist – 2009 to 2011, with Michigan Natural Features Inventory, Lansing, Michigan.

Wetland Ecologist – 2005 to 2008, with Wetland & Coastal Resources, Inc., Lansing, Michigan.

Restoration Ecologist – 1995 to 1999, with the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Illinois.

Additional Positions from 1988 – 2004: *Environmental Specialist* - Coeur d'Alene Tribe, Idaho. *Teaching Assistant for Land Use Hydrology* - Colorado State University. *Range Vegetation Surveyor* - Colorado State University. *Wetland/Riparian Technician* - City of Boulder Open Space, Colorado. *Tree Inventory Surveyor* - Natural Path Forestry Consultants, suburban Chicago, Illinois. *Restoration Technician* - Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Illinois. *Restoration Project Leader* - Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Illinois. *Exotic Plant Control Crew Member* - Student Conservation Association (SCA), Everglades National Park, Florida. *Biological Inventory Technician* - Forest Preserve District of Cook County and The Nature Conservancy, Illinois. *Assistant to Resource Manager* - SCA, North Cascades National Park, Washington. *Prairie Creation Internship* - Chicago Botanic Garden, Illinois.

Contact

2372 Sower Blvd., Okemos, MI 48864 • (517) 349-1274 *home* • (517) 755-0851 *cell* • stevet16@att.net

Steve A. Thomas
2372 Sower Boulevard
Okemos, Michigan 48864

October 27, 2019

Meridian Township
5151 Marsh Road
Okemos Michigan, 48864

Dear Meridian Township Staff:

I would like to offer to volunteer for the Land Preservation Advisory Board. In the fifteen years that I have resided in Meridian Township, I have visited and revisited many of the Township Land Preserves. In doing so, and in befriending other Township residents, I have learned how important these public lands are for the community. Among other things they provide homes for so many types of plants and animals, a place to learn about nature, a place for family recreation and outings, great scenery, and a sense of neighborhood identity, all practically right around the corner from where people live. Because I believe strongly in the value of these lands for our community, it would be a privilege to serve on their behalf.

If selected to serve on the Land Preservation Advisory Board, I would attempt to utilize my experience and professional background to the benefit of the preserve system. I am a trained ecologist with over 20 years of professional experience. My higher education includes botany, plant ecology, hydrology, and environmental conservation. I have field and planning experience with issues such as invasive species control, forestry, ecological restoration, habitat fragmentation, threatened and endangered species regulations, wetland regulations, wildlife issues, soil health, runoff and water quality, and many other conservation issues. In addition, I have been involved in stewardship within the Township since about 2009, and I have been actively conducting and leading ecological stewardship at Sower Woods for the last six years.

Please refer to the attached resume and do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like more information. I appreciate your consideration. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Steve A. Thomas



EMMA M. CAMPBELL

3718 West St. | Lansing, MI 48917 | 269-216-1075 | emmajakobcic@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science, Fisheries and Wildlife

December 2013

Michigan State University | East Lansing, MI

- Concentration in Wildlife Biology and Management
- Specialization in Environmental Studies

Rainforests and Reality Study Abroad in Nicaragua, March 2012

2011 Student Initiatives in Sustainable Agriculture (SISA) conference presenter

WORK EXPERIENCE

Education & Stewardship Coordinator

Woldumar Nature Center | Lansing, MI

April 2019-Present

- Responsible for all phases of environmental stewardship including community fundraising, grant writing, creation and implementation of land management plans, and volunteer recruitment and coordination.
- Assists the Program Director in the development and instruction of all educational programs offered on and off site: Annie's Big Nature Lesson, Guided Field Studies, Traveling Naturalist, and the Summer Explorer's Program.
- Lead interpretive hikes on a variety of environmental and ecological topics, such as local flora and fauna, the audience ranging from pre-K to adults.
- Conduct all stewardship and volunteer-based projects and programs, often collaborating with local businesses, corporations and, environmental and government agencies.
- Aids the Executive Director in community fundraising and grant writing, recently completing the Wildlife Habitat Grant Program Application for \$20,000. Additionally, responsible for outreach and social media focused on fundraising campaigns.
- Assists the Hospitality Manager with rental tours, event set-up and clean up, receiving caterers and other contracted parties, directing guests, meeting the needs of customers all while providing exceptional customer service.
- Program Coordinator for GM Green—a contracted water quality program with local secondary schools.
- Conducts necessary maintenance on grounds and facilities as well as maintains tools and equipment used for stewardship projects.
- Create a variety of aesthetic social media and outreach materials, with a mission to extend Woldumar's reach in the community

Interpretive Naturalist & Guest Services Crew

Woldumar Nature Center | Lansing, MI

October 2018-March 2019

- Responsible for assisting the Program Director in designing and implementing all school, camp and community programs run on and off site.
- Partner with local schools to coordinate programs for Annie's Big Nature Lesson, helping teachers meet academic goals with hands on experience.
- Lead interpretive hikes on a variety of environmental and ecological topics, the audience ranging from pre-K to adults.

EMMA M. CAMPBELL

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WORK EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

- Developed and carried out program curriculum specifically for winter nature camps and the Traveling Naturalist program based around environmental science and indigenous peoples.
- Assists the Hospitality Manager with rental tours, event set-up and clean up, receiving caterers and other contracted parties, directing guests, meeting the needs of customers all while providing exceptional customer service.
- Greet visitors answering all questions pertaining to WNC's trails, facilities, rentals and programs, providing a welcoming and positive atmosphere; enforce rules in a firm, but polite manner keeping the natural area clean and safe.

Environmental Stewardship & Volunteer Coordinator

Ingham County Parks | Holt, MI

December 2016-December 2018

- Developed and put into practice a stewardship and volunteer program at Burchfield County Park expanding connections and outreach with conservation districts, municipalities, schools and the general public all with the goal of aiding local conservation efforts and managing park lands.
- Responsible for invasive species management of 540 acres of floodplain forest based on the ecology of the area while considering the recreational and public use of the land; exhibited sound decision-making based on the interest of all stakeholders.
- Recruited a volunteer base of 100 plus people through extensive communications via email, event flyers, outreach and education at community events as well as social media platforms.
- Year-round coordination of volunteer workdays; work ranging from education and removal of invasive species, native tree plantings, vernal pool monitoring and garbage cleanup.
- Promoted Ingham County at various school activities, conferences and DEQ events; constructed educational exhibits, and power point presentations showcasing invasive species awareness, conservation of park lands, community involvement through volunteering and the importance of proper human-wildlife interactions.
- Confidently supervised volunteers and seasonal rangers during stewardship events, delegating tasks effectively, concisely and motivating with positive reinforcement.
- Maintained all herbicide equipment used in invasive removal, keeping tools clean and repairing anything as needed; updated herbicide application forms keeping records organized and up to date with pesticide application guidelines.
- Operated heavy machinery and equipment in a safe and self-assured manner ensuring that all PPE is used by rangers and volunteers, removing invasive brush, cutting hazardous trees, mowing and applying herbicide; equipment included tractor, various PTO attachments (brush mower, post hole digger, boom sprayer) commercial zero turn mower, log splitter, wood chipper, backpack sprayer, chain saw, weed whipper. Performed all Ranger Duties (see Seasonal Park Ranger) with confidence as needed.



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WORK EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

Park Naturalist

Ingham County Parks | Holt, MI

May 2015-December 2018

- Coordinated and implemented a 9-week environmental education program creating daily activities and lesson plans for children ages 5-12; demonstrated highly developed organizational and time management skills.
- Educated children about basic ecology, biology, and local flora and fauna cultivating a sense of responsibility for the environment and conservation.
- Conveyed directions, ideas and information during hikes and lessons in a concise, efficient and fun manner, all while helping campers build healthy relationships and gain important interpersonal skills.
- Worked confidently in a leadership position with daily supervision of 20 children, all while delegating tasks to seasonal rangers, interns and junior naturalists.
- Produced and promoted outreach and advertisement materials using Microsoft Publisher and Canva; worked creatively under a strict schedule to meet all deadlines.
- Daily communication with park administration and management to resolve conflicts, organize plans, and relay problems and new ideas to be considered.
- Generated an Environmental Education Intern position gaining the opportunity to conduct interviews, hire, manage schedules and supervise employees.
- Attended conferences, workshops and training, adapting to current environmental education standards, gaining new concepts; diversified techniques as an educator to better guide children with Autism and a range of mental and physical abilities.
- Updated camp health forms to be more inclusive of children with disabilities opening up communication and a healthy rapport with parents.
- Performed all Ranger Duties (see Seasonal Park Ranger) with confidence as needed.

Graduate Research Transcriber

April 2015-May 2017

Michigan State University | East Lansing, MI

- Assisted research in the Criminal Justice Department under the WIPP (Women Improving Probation and Parole) study; research focused on improving the probation system and parole officer involvement.
- Typed interviews verbatim using Olympus DSS software, entered data using Microsoft Excel, exhibited a high level of organization completing administrative filing tasks.
- Assisted office administrator in meeting deadlines and ensuring all interviews and paperwork was completed and edited correctly.

Seasonal Park Ranger

December 2014-May 2015

Ingham County Parks | Holt, MI

- Assisted park visitors regarding trails, wildlife, park protocol and current park activities; enforced park rules and regulations in order to support a responsible and safe environment for others.

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WORK EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

- Exemplary maintenance of park premises completing any landscape, custodial, and facility repairs, ensuring a clean and aesthetic environment for visitors.
- Confidently managed cash register and credit machine during operation of winter sports rentals, gatehouse, food concessions, disc golf and boat rentals.
- Provided excellent customer service while instructing renters on safe and responsible use of ski equipment, tubes, canoes, kayaks and paddle boats.
- Prepared shelters for reservations ensuring a polished and professional environment for small and large events, meeting all the customers needs.
- Assisted managers in leading, training, and instructing new employees on equipment and protocols to increase efficiency of park operations.
- Responded quickly to emergency situations providing necessary support and de-escalating conflicts while remaining level-headed and adhering to park protocol.
- Aided in the completion of various administrative tasks such as making copies, creating temporary signage and ordering supplies.

Assistant to Aquatic Plant Manager

May 2013-September 2014

PLM Lake & Land Management Corp | Perry, MI

- Educated customers and the general public working to improve knowledge of aquatic invasive species and the importance of their management within ecosystems.
- Assisted managers with equipment in the field, performing water quality surveys, handling herbicides properly, competent operation of all vehicles and watercraft and launching boats safely and efficiently.
- Required to diminish confrontational situations with customers by responding to all questions and concerns in a calm, professional manner.
- Implemented open communication between customers and managers to ensure all concerns were heard from both parties.

Organic Farm Crew Member

September 2009-April 2014

Michigan State University Student Organic Farm | Holt, MI

- Assisted in year-round production and management of organic food crops and livestock.
- Administered daily irrigation, weed removal, pest control, and maintenance of hoop houses.
- Educated CSA members, volunteers, tour groups, and market stand customers about organic food production and the resulting benefits to the community and environment.
- Delivered produce to farm patrons and sold produce from farm market stand.
- Supervised and trained incoming volunteers, crew members and tour groups to ensure proper care of food crops and livestock.

EMMA M. CAMPBELL

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PUBLIC SPEAKING EXPERIENCE

Earth Day Event Exhibitor

April 2017 & 2018

Department of Environmental Quality | Lansing, MI

- Developed educational presentations for over 3,000 exhibitors highlighting important environmental issues. Topics included, Keeping Wildlife Wild & Bond with a Vernal Pond.
- Promoted volunteer opportunities with the park and our partner organizations, encouraging local connections and networking.

Classroom Presenter

February 2017

Fisheries & Wildlife Club | Michigan State University, MI

- Created a 30-minute power point presentation educating students about the flora and fauna of Burchfield County Park and my role as a stewardship coordinator.
- Promoted volunteer opportunities with the park and our partner organizations giving students a chance to gain valuable experience toward their career.

Conference Presenter

April 2011

Student Initiatives in Sustainable Agriculture | Lawrence University Appleton, WI

- Delivered a 60-minute presentation highlighting the methods used by MSU's Student Organic Farm in the management of organic swine for food production.
- Developed a conference level presentation; gained the ability to convey information in a comprehensive and succinct manner.

CERTIFICATIONS & SKILLS

- **MDARD Commercial Pesticide Applicator License**
 - Certification Number: C006170086
 - Expiration date: 12/31/2020
 - Categories: Commercial Core, Turfgrass (3A), Ornamental (3B), Aquatic (5), Right of Way (6)
- **MIOSHA Chainsaw Safety**
 - Certificate of Completion
 - Completed 03/21/2017
- **First Aid/CPR and Blood-born Pathogen Training**
 - 2015 – Present



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

February 12, 2020 6 PM

5. APPROVE OF MINUTES
A. December 11, 2019

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Meeting Location: 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Ct., Haslett, MI 48840

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett
Meridian Service Center
Wednesday, December 11, 2019 6 PM

PRESENT: Chair, Jon Mayes; Vice-chair, James Kielbaso (6:28 pm); Board Member Kirk Lapham; Board Member Yu Man Lee
ABSENT: Board Member Jamie Hiller; Board Member Mark Stephens
STAFF: Jane Greenway, Senior Parks and Land Management Coordinator; Robin Faust, Administrative Assistant II
TOWNSHIP: Township Trustee, Dan Opsommer
OTHER: None

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Mayes called the meeting to order at 6:21 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Change agenda item 7C to memo to support re-appointment of Yu Man Lee and change item 8D to Southwest Meridian Uplands

Board Opsommer moved **TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED**. Seconded by Board Member LEE.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

3. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

4. APPROVE MINUTES

Board Member Opsommer moved **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 9, 2019 REGULAR MEETING**. Seconded by Board Member Lee.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

None

6. OLD BUSINESS

A. Davis Foster Preserve Barn Update

Coordinator Greenway reported:

- 1) Worked with Friends of Historic Meridian Board President Brad Brogren
- 2) Sent out a RFP to and there were no bids
- 3) Offered to have Parks Maintenance crew do the work they can, patch up the house and secure the area
- 4) Was consensus of members present to move forward as staff suggested

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- B. Tree Bank Ordinance Update
Board Member Opsommer reported:
 - 1) Township Board discussed the proposed Ordinance and moved to send to the Planning Staff for development
 - 2) Township Board discussed it at one meeting and hope to see something crafted next year
 - 3) If approved, it will require an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance

- C. Wetland Banking Update
Coordinator Greenway reported:
 - 1) Received information from State of Michigan on areas that were historically wetlands and it has been overlaid through our GIS system onto Township maps
 - 2) Township is looking for potential mitigation areas.
 - 3) Board Member Lapman reported the Environmental Commission is discussing the request from the Township Staff to look at Township properties with wetland impact; question if the Township needs or would use a wetland bank (where would it work, how would land qualify). The State has a number of steps for their process but may want to investigate on smaller wetlands at Township level with Township regulations but may need wetland delineation to verify if the land is an actual wetland. If it is a historical wetland, can it be reverted back. Need to see what Township needs are first before going further.

7. NEW BUSINESS

- A. 2020 Meeting Resolution
The following resolution was offered by Board Member Dan Opsommer and supported by Board Member Yu Man Lee:

WHEREAS, the Land Preservation Advisory Board desires to announce the time, date, and place of all meetings of the Land Preservation Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, the Land Preservation Advisory Board deems the 2020 regular meeting schedule sufficient to uphold the Township Board’s Policies and Procedures, and advancement toward the Board’s Global Ends; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THAT THE LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD ADOPTS ITS REGULAR 2020 MEETING SCHEDULE AS FOLLOWS:

Date	Location	Time
January 8	Service Center	6 pm
January 28*	Town Hall	6 pm
February 12	Service Center	6 pm
March 11	Service Center	6 pm
April 8	Service Center	6 pm
May 13	Service Center	6 pm
June 10	Service Center	6 pm
July 8	Service Center	6 pm
August 12	Service Center	6 pm

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September 9	Service Center	6 pm
October 14	Service Center	6 pm
November 18**	Service Center	6 pm
December 9	Service Center	6 pm

*Joint Meeting of the Township Boards and Commissions

**3rd Wednesday due to Township Offices closed on November 11

1. The Land Preservation Advisory Board has set a schedule to meet on the second Wednesday of the month; except for the joint meeting with the other Township boards and commissions and third Wednesday in November due to the Township Offices being closed on November 11.
2. Each of the above meetings shall be held at the specified time in the lunchroom of the Meridian Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Ct., Haslett, Michigan, and (517) 853-4000; with the exception of the joint meeting of the boards and commission which is held in the Town Hall Room, Meridian Municipal Building, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos.
3. Special meetings of the Land Preservation Advisory Board may be called pursuant to the statute thereto appertaining.
4. Regular meetings may be canceled, recessed or postponed by members of the Land Preservation Advisory Board pursuant to the statute thereto appertaining.
5. A summary of this resolution stating date, place, and time shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township, and a copy of this resolution shall be posted in the Meridian Municipal Building.

ADOPTED:

YEAS: James Kielbaso, Kirk Lapman, Yu Man Lee, Jon Mayes

NAYS: None

Resolution passed unanimously

B. Resolution of Appreciation – Jon Mayes

The following resolution was offered by Advisory Board Member Kielbaso and supported by Advisory Board Member Opsommer

WHEREAS, Jon Mayes has served as a member of the Land Preservation Advisory Board of the Charter Township of Meridian from 2012 through 2019; and

WHEREAS, Jon Mayes, while serving on the Board, has supported the acquisition and permanent preservation of ecologically important open space and natural features of the Township’s community supported and funded land preservation program; and

WHEREAS, Jon Mayes has served as the Chair to the Land Preservation Advisory Board for thee (3) years supporting multiple acquisitions at the Board level; and

WHEREAS, Jon Mayes attended many site visits and offered insight about each parcel being considered for addition to the Township’s program; and

WHEREAS, Jon Mayes has devoted much of his personal time and energy on management and stewardship efforts in multiple land preserves; and

Minutes – Land Preservation Advisory Board

December 11, 2019

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WHEREAS, Jon Mayes service on the Land Preservation Advisory Board has been beneficial to Meridian Township, its citizens, and its natural environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THE LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN extends its best wishes to Jon Mayes and expresses its gratitude for his service to the community.

ADOPTED:

YEAS: Kirk Lapman, Yu Man Lee, Daniel Opsommer, James Kielbaso,

NAYS: None

Resolution passed unanimously.

- C. Memo to Support Re-Appointment of Yu Man Lee
Board Member Opsommer stated he would carry the information back to the Township Board.

8. STAFF REPORT

- A. Stewardship Days at Towar Woods Land Preserve and Red Cedar Glen Land Preserve
Before departing the Township, Stewardship Coordinator Dillon assisted with the stewardship days at two preserves. Volunteers removed autumn olive at Red Cedar Glen and cleared buckthorn, downed trees, planted 175 trees and basal bark herbicide treatment on buckthorn at Towar Woods
- B. Deer Management Update
Coordinator Greenway reported 30 deer have been harvested to date.
- C. Land Stewardship Position Replacement
Coordinator Greenway reported 40 applications were received interviewed eight candidates and invited three back for second interview. Decision will be made soon.
- D. Southwest Meridian Uplands Land Preserve – 20 acre addition
Coordinator Greenway reported this addition will allow for a trailhead sign will be off Sophiea Parkway and there will be an emergency access, a 20'asphalt pathway with bollard to prevent normal vehicular traffic.

9. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

None

10. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

None

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, January 8, 6 pm, Meridian Service Center

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December 11, 2019

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12. CLOSED SESSION

Board Member Kielbaso moved, **TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS LAND ACQUISITION ITEM.** Supported by Board Member Lee.

ROLL CALL:

YEAS: Kirk Lapman, Yu Man Lee, Daniel Opsommer, James Kielbaso, Jon Mayes

NAYS: None

The Board entered into closed session at 7:10 pm

Board Member Kielbaso moved, **TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION.** Supported by Board Member Opsommer.

ROLL CALL:

YEAS: Kirk Lapman, Yu Man Lee, Daniel Opsommer, James Kielbaso, Jon Mayes

NAYS: None

The Board returned to open session at 7:27 pm

13. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Mayes, moved **TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.** Seconded by Board Member Opsommer.

Chair Mayes adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

February 12, 2020 6 PM

6. COMMUNICATIONS
 - A. 2020 Board Member List
 - B. 2019 Annual Report and 2020 Goals

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Meeting Location: 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Ct., Haslett, MI 48840

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Land Preservation Advisory Board Membership List

<u>Name</u>	<u>Contact Information</u>	<u>End Date</u>
Jamie Hiller, Resident Member 5699 Woodmont Circle Haslett, MI 48840	Cell: 517.898.7610 Email: hiller1jw@gmail.com	12/31/2020
Jim Kielbaso, Vice Chair Environmental Commission Representative 4696 Huron Hill Okemos, MI 48864	Home: 517.349.2095 Email: kielbas3@msu.edu Cell: 517.896.8907	12/31/2019
Kirk Lapham, Resident Member 4540 Mistywood Dr. Okemos, MI 48864	Phone: 517.655.6503 Email: laphamk@gmail.com	12/31/2022
Yu Man Lee, Resident Member 3559 E Hiawatha Drive Okemos, MI 48864	Cell: 517.449.7900 Email: leeyum@msu.edu	12/31/2023
Dan Opsommer, Township Trustee Township Board Representative 1804 Sherbrook Way Haslett, MI 48840	Home: 517.281.6034 Email: opsommer@meridian.mi.us	12/31/2020
Mark Stephens Park Commission Representative 1710 Haslett Road Haslett, MI 48840	Home: 517.339.0159 Email: steph143@msu.edu Cell: 517.614.4474	12/31/2020
Steve Thomas, Resident Member 2372 Sower Boulevard Okemos, MI 48864	Cell: 517.755.0851 Email: stevet16@att.net	12/31/2023
Vacant-Resident Member		
<u>Parks and Recreation Department Staff</u>		
LuAnn Maisner, Director	517.853.4604 / maisner@meridian.mi.us	
Jane Greenway, Parks & Land Management Coordinator	517.853.4610 / greenway@meridian.mi.us	
Emma Campbell, Park Naturalist & Stewardship Coordinator	517.853.4614 / campbell@meridian.mi.us	
Robin Faust, Administrative Assistant	517.853.4608 / faust@meridian.mi.us	

Updated January 10, 2020



To: Board Members

From: Land Preservation Advisory Board

Date: January 28, 2020

Re: 2019 Annual Report and 2020 Goals

Background of the Land Preservation Program

1. The lands and waters found within the preserves provide valuable habitat for native plants and animals, protect air and water quality, add aesthetic value, and enhance public enjoyment of the outdoors. Although the preserves are not part of the park system, they complement the parks and add to the overall quality of green space in Meridian Township.
2. Preserves are distributed throughout the township and represent upland and wetland areas, woodlands, former agricultural areas, and increasingly rare, sensitive, and disappearing habitats once common in Mid-Michigan.
3. The Land Preservation Program is now in its 19th year of existence, and the program has exceeded the original goal of acquiring/protecting 10% of the available, desirable open space in the Township.
4. The focus of the LPAB is moving toward an emphasis on land management and stewardship, but will still consider acquiring properties.

Millage

Township residents approved a ten year, 0.75 mil Land Preservation Millage in November 2000. Residents approved a ten year, 0.33 mil Land Preservation Millage in November 2010. The current millage will expire in 2020.

Overview of Land Preserves as of 01/2019

1. Acres of Current Land Preserves: 968 acres
2. Total Preserves: 24
3. Total Acquisitions: 44
4. The goal of the program was to acquire 600 acres, or 10% of available land.
5. With the new land preserves added in 2018 for a total of 968 acres, the land preservation program will have preserved 16.1% of the "suitable land" as identified in 2000.

Notable 2019 Accomplishments

1. Acquisitions: There were no acquisitions in 2019.
2. Ponderosa Preserve: Four year Knotweed removal contract to eradicate Japanese Knotweed stand found at preserve (2019 was the second year of treatment).
3. Towar Woods: Continued with large restoration project. 2019 included four (4) acres of clearing buckthorn and downed trees, planting 175 trees, basal bark herbicide treatment on buckthorn, and four (4) stewardship days with volunteers.
4. Davis Foster Preserve: Removal of invasive Autumn Olive from front field, prescribed burn in spring 2019, 90 Murphy Elementary students participated in seed ball project, held one stewardship day.

5. Red Cedar Glen: Several workdays to removal the invasive shrub autumn olive from the preserve.
6. Deer Management: 20 land preserves were part of the 2019 program, which strived to control the local deer population for the purpose of reducing ecological damage to Township property and nearby residential areas. A total of 83 deer were harvested in 2019.
7. Serafine property (northern portion of SW Meridian Uplands): Several work days with neighbors to remove invasive shrubs from the property.
8. Sower Woods: Over 100 native grasses/forbs were planted. Two stewardship days were help.
9. Lake Lansing North: Held a stewardship day to collect seed from native understory plants.
10. Northridge Preserve: Phragmites treatment was conducted.
11. Site Visits: Board members walked numerous preserves and participated in volunteer activities.
12. Signage: four new Land Preserve signs installed for properties acquired in 2018.

Land Preservation Advisory Board (LPAB)

1. The LPAB was established by the Township Board in January 2001, and in November 2001, the Township Board passed the Land Preservation Ordinance officially providing the mechanism for implementation of the program.

Responsibilities of the Land Preservation Advisory Board (Sec 22-89, Charter Township of Meridian Code) are to:

1. Establish a process to actively encourage, identify, and review potential properties ... for acquisition....
2. Review applications... for acquisition... and make recommendations to the Township Board.
3. Review activities of the township to identify inconsistencies with the stated purposes of the land preservation program.
4. Develop... an individualized stewardship plan for each property....
5. Submit a written report annually to the Township Board.
6. Assume such other duties related to the land preservation program as may be assigned by the Township Board.

2019 Land Preservation Advisory Board Membership

Mr. Jon Mayes, Chair, Resident Member (term ended December 2019)
Dr. James Kielbaso, Vice-Chair of LPAB and Environmental Commission Liaison
Mr. Dan Opsommer, Township Board Liaison
Mr. Roland Harmes Jr., Resident Member (resigned October 2019)
Mr. Mark Stephens, Park Commission Liaison
Ms. Yu Man Lee, Resident Member
Ms. Jamie Hiller, Resident Member

Staff: Jane Greenway, Parks and Land Management Coordinator
Kelsey Dillon, Stewardship Coordinator (resigned October 2019)
Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator (began January, 2020)

Memo to Township Board

January 28, 2020

Re: Land Preservation Advisory Board

2019 Annual Report and 2020 Goals

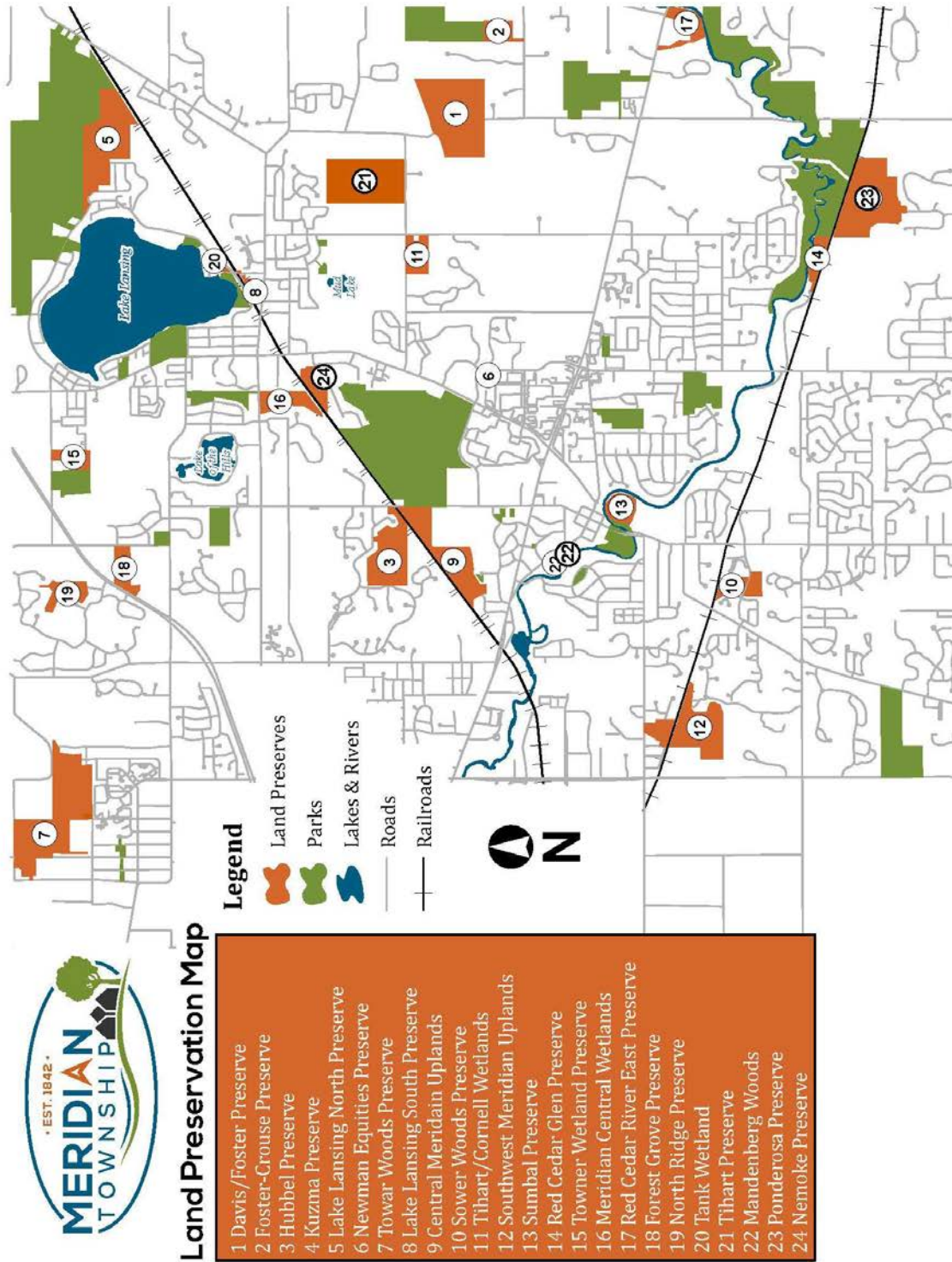
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Goals for 2020

1. Community Stewardship Engagement: Engage the community and energize stewardship activities. Recruit local neighborhood organizations and schools to actively participate in cleanup and maintenance of the preserves, including elimination of invasive, non-native plants for several preserves.
2. Grants and Other Environmental Organization Support: Continue developing partnerships with public agencies and non-profit organizations to enhance the environmental value and public enjoyment of the preserves.
3. General Land Management: Complete rule signage, bollard placement and stewardship plans for all preserves currently in program.
4. Deer Management: Continue deer management program in the preserves.
5. Site Restoration Projects: Continue and expand site restoration projects.
6. Davis/Foster Preserve Overlook: Work to finish designs for an overlook/outdoor educational area at the Davis Foster Preserve.

Land Preservation Spring Stewardship Projects







CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

February 12, 2020 6 PM

8. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Election of Officers
 - B. Resolution of Appreciation – Roland Harmes

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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To: Land Preservation Advisory Board Members
From: Jane Greenway, Parks and Land Management Coordinator
Date: February 6, 2020
Re: Election of Officers for 2020

The current Chair/Vice Chair opens floor for nominations of Chair:

- a. A commissioner nominates a member of the Commission.
- b. Another Commissioner seconds the nomination.
- c. The nominee either accepts or declines nomination.
- d. The Chair asks if there are any other nominations, and if there are, then steps a, b and c are repeated.
- e. Once all nominations are offered, the Chair closes the floor to nominations (or a Commissioner can move to close the floor to nominations) and the Chair takes a roll call vote.

The current Chair/Vice Chair opens the floor for nominations of Vice Chair:

- a. A commissioner nominates a member of the Commission.
- b. Another Commissioner seconds the nomination.
- c. The nominee either accepts or declines nomination.
- d. The Chair asks if there are any other nominations, and if there are, then steps a, b and c are repeated.
- e. Once all nominations are offered, the Chair closes the floor to nominations (or a Commissioner can move to close the floor to nominations) and the Chair takes a roll call vote.

