



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett
Meridian Service Center
Wednesday, July 8, 2020 6 PM

PRESENT: Board Members: Jamie Hiller; James Kielbaso; Yu Man Lee; Mark Stephens; Steve Thomas
ABSENT: Board Member Kirk Lapham
STAFF: Emma Campbell, Land Stewardship Coordinator
TOWNSHIP: Trustee Dan Opsommer
OTHER: None

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

BOARD CHAIR KIELBASO MOVED TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:03 PM.

2. APPROVE AGENDA

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

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

3. CITIZENS ADDRESS AGENDA ITEMS AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Citizens present solely to sit in on the meeting and listen.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

Board Member Opsommer moved **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 12, 2020 REGULAR MEETING**. Seconded by Board Member Stephens.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

6. OLD BUSINESS

None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Land Preservation Millage Renewal

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Coordinator Campbell introduced the 2020 millage recommendation of 0.1 from the current 0.33. With land acquisition goals met and a new focus on management and stewardship of acquired lands, the township believes these goals can be met with this recommended rate.

Discussion:

- A. Board members discussed recommending a higher rate in case acquisitions did come up.
- B. Board Member Opsommer explained available funds in addition to funds from millage.

BOARD MEMBER HILLER MOVED TO TABLE THIS DISCUSSION UNTIL NEXT MEETING.

Board Members also asked to have documentation of the Land Preservation budget and related resources during this meeting.

BOARD MEMBER THOMAS SECONDED.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

8. STAFF REPORT

A. Stewardship Coordinator

- 1. Meridian Conservation Corps
 - a. Coordinator Campbell updated Board on M.C.C. Logo creation and ideas for outreach at events for promotion of program.
 - i. Spartan day of service is April 18th
 - ii. Celebrate Meridian
- 2. Wetland Banking – Tihart Preserve Update
 - a. Update of walkthrough that took place with Mike Pennington from EGLE on March 6th at 10 am.

Discussion:

 - i. Mike Pennington conveyed a couple different options for the site.
 - a) Wetland banking grant funded through the state: If this is pursued we will have to monitor the site and prove that the site is lacking in hydrology consistent with a wetland. Grant funding cannot be provided to a site that is already an established wetland.
 - b) Wetland restoration completed through township funds: This was an option laid out for the scenario that we cannot prove a lack of hydrology.
 - c) Stream banking, which is a new concept within Mike's department on which he will be sending the township more information on and whether or not we would qualify.
 - d) Mike said to hold on for now and he will send us more information on

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how to proceed while we discuss the options.

- b. Discussion by Board Members:
 - i. There were approximately 3-4 drains found on the site. Members requested a map of all the drains for next meeting. One of the drains is a large one connecting to Mud Lake, called the Mud Lake Drain.
 - ii. The soil shows that it is mostly made up of organic matter and was a historically wet soil before the drains were put in.
 - iii. Members suggested looking for other grant/funding opportunities in the case that we are not able to prove lack of hydrology.
 - iv. The option was discussed of breaking up drain tiles that exist and possibly filling in one or so drains to bring the water table back up to its normal level. We would need to start the process of figuring out what impacts to surrounding area would be and what legal processes we would need to go through.

MEMBER KIELBASO MOVED TO TABLE THE DISCUSSION UNTIL EGLE RESPONDS ON HOW TO PROCEED.

Members asked to provide aerial and drain maps at next meeting as well as requesting Mike Pennington's presence.

Board Member Hiller seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

3. Stewardship Work Days Update

- A. Ted Black Woods
 1. Removed invasive honeysuckle, Japanese barberry, and common buckthorn from site surrounding wetland on the North end of Ted Black Woods.
- B. Towar Woods
 1. Worked with local volunteers and Meridian Township Police to remove common buckthorn and dead trees from trailhead.
- C. Harris Nature Center
 1. Worked on removing large, seed producing oriental bittersweet vines. Created a management plan targeting that area.
- D. Additional updates were added:
 1. Legg Park will be the location of the next workday on March 21st from 9:30am – 12 pm, removing autumn olive from the open field.
 2. Board member Stephens suggested doing stewardship garlic mustard pulls during salmon release at Legg Park this spring.
 3. Possible Eagle Scout Project at Tihart Preserve removing Autumn Olive from open field. Board Members Stephens and Hiller suggest other possible projects:
 - i. Mandenberg Woods Ramp off Hamilton Rd.

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1. Also cleanup of barbed wire, old farm equipment.
- ii. Wood duck nest boxes at Nancy Moor Park

9. COMMENT FROM THE PUBLIC

Both commented that they were excited to hear about work being done throughout the parks.

10. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

None.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, April 8, 2020, 6 pm,
Meridian Service Center

12. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kielbaso **ADJOURNED THE MEETING** at 7:34 PM. Seconded by Board Member Hiller.

VOICE VOTE (show of raised hands): Motion carried unanimously.