



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
North Meridian Road Park, 5191 Meridian Road, Williamston, MI
Wednesday, August 12, 2020 6 PM

PRESENT: Board Members: Matt Bozung; Jamie Hiller; James Kielbaso; Mark Stephens; Steve Thomas
ABSENT: Yu Man Lee
STAFF: Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator
TOWNSHIP: Trustee Dan Opsommer
OTHER: Township Treasurer Phil Deschaine

A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

BOARD CHAIR KIELBASO MOVED TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:04 PM.

B. APPROVE AGENDA

- A. Board member Hiller asks for addition of 7E under New Business for discussion of re-naming preserves. Chair Kielbaso approves the addition.

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED TO APPROVE AGENDA. Seconded by Board Member Hiller.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

C. INTRODUCTIONS

- A. Matt Bozung introduces himself to the board.

D. APPROVE JULY 8, 2020 MINUTES

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES. Seconded by Board Member Hiller.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

E. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. NONE

F. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Phil Deschaine to answer questions on preservation fund investments (an issue brought up at the last meeting):
- I. The township is required to follow Public Act 50 which dictates that the Township Treasurer choose from safe investments for fund investment.
 - II. Board Member Stephens questioned whether or not the treasurer can choose to invest more money from Land Preservation funds. Phil Deschaine responded it is possible, although right now the market is not ideal to make purchases. This will be ear marked for future investments once rates are more ideal.

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- III. Board Member Opsommer asked Phil that the board is made aware of better rates in the future so that more money may be invested.
- B. Foster-Crouse Preserve (Visit today)
 - I. Coordinator Campbell asked to move forward on this issue until we are on the trail after the regular meeting.
- C. Update on Lake Lansing North prescribed burn
 - I. The site visit with Lake Lansing County Park staff Coe Emmons and Ian Londo will be rescheduled for after labor day.

G. NEW BUSINESS

- A. 10 year stewardship plan for the Land Preservation Program
 - I. Coordinator Campbell briefed the board on what the main goals of the 10 year plan are: prescribed burns, invasive species contract work, M.C.C. program materials and growth, fencing and enhancement in preserves along the border of neighborhoods.
 - II. Coordinator Campbell encourages the board to look over the 10 year plan and come the next meeting with thoughts and ideas for discussion.
- B. Lake Lansing South/Potter Preserve
 - I. Coordinator Campbell debriefed the board on neighborhood encroachment at preserve. Encroachment is severe enough that Coordinator Campbell believes that is harm to the ecological value that the preserve is supposed to provide for flora and fauna. The site is also quite degraded and beginning to fill in with invasive species.
 - II. Coordinator Campbell discusses a plan to enhance the site in collaboration with Vern Stephens, Designs by Nature. Board members are invited to visit the site to add their recommendations. Board Member Stephens discussed the pike spawning in that area and how we can improve that area as well.
 - III. Coordinator Campbell discussed installing a split rail fence along the property line to aid in mitigating encroachment.
- C. Deer Management Program 2020
 - I. Coordinator Campbell gave an update on the program and how it will change due to COVID. No new hunters will be accepted into the program this season, utilizing returning hunters only.
 - II. Two new properties were added to the property list: Hillbrook Park and Brattin Woods Park.
- D. Ingham County Tax Properties
 - I. Coordinator Campbell introduces a tax foreclosed property in Meridian Township for a possible acquisition. The parcel 7.97 acres and is contiguous to the Nemoke Land Preserve increasing the green space in that area.
 - II. The board discussed benefits of the acquisition.

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED TO HAVE THE TOWNSHIP ACQUIRE PARCEL # 33-02-02-15-100-010. Seconded by Board Member Hiller.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

- E. Re-naming Preserve properties
 - I. Board Member Hiller proposed that where applicable, the preserve names be changed to nearby road names in order for patrons to find them easier.

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Board members agreed that there needs to be more consistency for the names to increase accessibility and awareness.

- II. Coordinator Campbell offered to have a more in depth discussion at the next meeting once it is better understood which preserves can have undergo a name change – some of the properties were donated with strict instructions for specific names to be included.

B. STAFF REPORT

A. Stewardship Coordinator

I. Stewardship workdays re-starting

1. Stewardship workdays have started back up with COVID guidelines in place: Volunteers must come with a mask and use it when within 6 feet of each other.
2. The first workday was held August 1st at Davis-Foster preserve to remove Autumn Olive.
3. The next one is scheduled for August 15th at the Lake Lansing North conservation easement.

II. Fall invasive management

1. Coordinator Campbell discussed stewardship action goals for fall invasive treatment, highlighting the following areas: The Autumn Olive field at Tihart/Judy Lynn preserve, oak woods at SW Meridian Uplands, native planting site at Serafin and Autumn Olive at Davis-Foster.

C. COMMENT FROM THE PUBLIC

A. NONE.

D. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

A. NONE.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, September 9, 2020, 6 pm, at the Meridian Service Center (site visit to Central Meridian Uplands after the regular meeting).

F. ADJOURNMENT

- A. **MARK STEPHENS ADJOURNED THE MEETING** at 7:45 PM. Seconded by Board Member Hiller.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

