



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Zoom Meeting
Wednesday, November 18, 2020, 6 PM

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

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

BOARD CHAIR KIELBASO MOVED TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:08 PM.

2. APPROVE AGENDA

Hearing no objections, Chair Kielbaso accepted the agenda as presented.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

3. APPROVE SEPTEMBER 9, 2020 MINUTES

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2020 MINUTES AS AMENDED. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

4. COMMUNICATIONS - NONE

5. OLD BUSINESS

A. Foster-Crouse Preserve

1. Coordinator Campbell asked board members to come to a decision on Foster-Crouse Preserve trail maintenance which would include a boardwalk over the stretch of wet area on the trail.
2. Questions from board members on proposed trail maintenance:
 - a. Do we need approval from the environmental commission?
 - b. What permits do we need to proceed with a boardwalk?
 - c. Who do we need to involve from parks and recreation?
 1. Coordinator Campbell offers that Kati Adams and Larry Bob should be included to make sure vehicles and equipment can manage the trail.

TRUSTEE OPSOMMER MOVED TO APPROVE A STUDY ON TRAIL MAINTENANCE. Seconded by Board Member Stephens.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

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3. Bike allowance in Foster Crouse: board members discussed and considered the alternatives to allowing bikes on the trail. There is still concern over the environmental impact versus the safety of allowing bikes on Foster Crouse. A potential option discussed is having a 'bike walk' zone with educational signage on why bikes can be disruptive to natural areas.

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED TO TABLE DISCUSSION ON BIKE ALLOWANCE ON FOSTER CROUSE PRESERVE. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

B. Lake Lansing South Preserve

1. DNR Fisheries Guidance on Pike Spawning Area
 - a. Board Member Stephens and Coordinator Campbell will discuss the enhancement of the pike spawning area with MDNR Fisheries in a meeting next week. Current goals of the area are to enhance water flow in the culverts running from Lake Lansing to Spengler Marsh. Updates will come after the meeting.
2. Management Plan Update
 - a. Coordinator Campbell discussed the management of Lake Lansing South to help improve habitat conditions as well as nurture a sense of community and decrease neighborhood encroachment. Invasive species will be removed, young tree saplings caged in, educational signage installed, and native plants will be planted with an emphasis on native shrubs along the border of the property.
 - b. Trustee Opsommer brought up the question of a mowing ordinance that could be enforced through fines. Coordinator Campbell will discuss this issue with staff members and code enforcement.

C. Floodplain mitigation project at Central Meridian uplands – update on site visit

1. Board members in attendance at the site visit give an update on possible locations in CMU as well as concerns about the mitigation.
2. After discussion a conclusion is met to reach out to Derek Perry and get an update on the mitigation process and potential properties. Once more is known, CMU and its potential will be discussed further.

D. Resolution supporting the ballot proposal to amend the Michigan Natural Resources Trust

1. Due to absent board members and concerns over the proposal, the resolution was put to the side.

E. Lake Lansing Park North Boardwalk and Path Improvements

1. Coordinator Campbell updated the board on path improvements as well as questions and concerns from the board. All members agree that vernal pools located near the path improvements are of high importance and may require supplemental protections from erosion and equipment. Options for the Land Preservation using funds to provide this supplemental protection are discussed.
2. The board discussed concerns over type of surface material used for pathway and improvements and possible leaching into the surrounding environment. This is a concern that the board would like addressed throughout the grant process and project lifetime.

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BOARD MEMBER OPSOMMER MOVED TO APPROVE MOTION TO SUPPORT PATHWAY AND BOARDWALK IMPROVEMENTS AT LAKE LANSING NORTH, CONTINGENT ON SURFACE MATERIAL USED ON PATHWAY. Seconded by Board Member Stephens.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

F. Lake Lansing North Burn Update

1. October 26th is the Ingham County Board Meeting. Coordinator Campbell will present information on the prescribed burn at the meeting to seek approval in the fall of 2020 or spring of 2021.

G. Re-Naming Preserve Properties

1. Board members received a take-home list of potential preserves for a name change. Names will be discussed at next meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Land Preservation Millage Renewal

1. Coordinator Campbell communicates some of the concerns heard from residents about the Land Preservation Millage Renewal.

B. Board candidate recommendation – Kris Parnell

BOARD MEMBER THOMAS MOVED TO RECOMMEND THAT KRIS PARNELL BE PLACED ON THE LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

7. STAFF REPORT

A. Stewardship Coordinator

1. Stewardship Workdays
 - a. Legg Park Workday: 11 volunteers participated for a total of 27.5 hours. Volunteers removed Autumn Olive, Japanese Hedge Parsley, and Multiflora Rose.
 - b. Native Tree Planting at Chippewa Middle School: 40 native trees planted, with 50 volunteers in attendance.
 - c. CISMA Invasive Species Workday: 4 volunteers, for a total of 8 hours. Identified phragmites and possible Japanese knotweed in Nancy Moore and Central Park.
 - d. Sower Woods Preserve: 21 volunteers participated for a total of 42 hours. Planted native Blue Cohosh, and Wild Leek seeds.
 - e. Deer Management Update: 45 deer harvested, 620 pounds of meat donated to local food banks.

8. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - NONE

9. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

Chair Kielbaso announces he will be absent from the November 11th meeting.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, November 18th, 6 pm, over Zoom due to Township offices being closed for Veterans Day.

11. ADJOURNMENT

CHAIR KIELBASO MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. Seconded by Board Member Thomas.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.