



**AGENDA**  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
Wednesday January 11, 2023 6:00 pm  
Township Service Center  
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett 48840

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1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. PUBLIC COMMENT
3. APPROVE AGENDA
  - A. January 11, 2023
4. APPROVE MINUTES
  - A. November 9, 2022
5. COMMUNICATIONS
  - A. 2023 Meeting Schedule
  - B. Board Vacancy
7. DISCUSSION ITEMS
  - A. 2023 Land Preservation & Stewardship Program Goals & Events
  - B. Climate Sustainability Plan
    - a. Update/Input on Wetlands & Water Quality Section

**(CLOSED SESSION)**

  - C. Land Acquisition Presentation of Reports

**(END CLOSED SESSION)**
8. REPORTS
  - A. STAFF REPORT: Stewardship Coordinator, Emma Campbell
    - a. 2022 Land Preservation & Stewardship Annual Report
    - b. Conclusion of 2022 Deer Management Archery Program
  - B. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Kendra Grassesschi
  - C. PARK COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Mark Stephens
9. PUBLIC COMMENT
10. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS
11. ANNOUNCEMENTS
  - A. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, March 8, 2023 at 6 pm at the Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett 48840.
12. ADJOURNMENT

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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 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Township Service Center  
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court | Haslett, MI  
Wednesday, November 9, 2022, 6 PM

PRESENT: Board Members: Jamie Hiller, Steve Thomas, Kris Parnell, Yu Man Lee, Mark Stephens  
ABSENT: Township Trustee, Courtney Wisinski, Board Member Kendra Grassesschi  
STAFF: Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator  
TOWNSHIP: None.

**1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chair Hiller moved to call the meeting to order at 6:07 pm.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

A. None.

**3. APPROVE AGENDA**

A. November 9, 2022

**Vice Chair Thomas makes a motion to amend November 9, 2022 agenda to include Item 7A Land Preservation Advisory Board 2023 Meeting Resolution. Board Member Lee seconded.**

**VOICE VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A. September 21, 2022

**Board member Stephens moved to approve the minutes and place them on file. Board member Parnell seconded.**

**VOICE VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

**5. COMMUNICATIONS**

A. The Township Joint Board Meeting is on November 15<sup>th</sup> 2022 at 6 pm located at Town Hall.

**6. OLD BUSINESS**

A. 730 Knightsford Lane Drainage Issue

1. Emma Campbell (Stewardship Coordinator) gives a brief overview of the timeline of events pertaining to the drainage issue at 730 Knightsford Lane as follows:

i. Mr. Schultz contacted Township staff in October of 2021 about flooding issues to their basement after a large storm event that took place in June of 2021. Damage was incurred to their basement.

## Minutes – Land Preservation Advisory Board

November 9, 2022

Page 2 of 6

- ii. Mr. Schultz and his engineer attended the November 2021 meeting to discuss the issue with the board.
  - iii. Staff members met and wrote a letter of recommendation on next steps in January of 2022, one of the priorities being to contact the Ingham County Drain Office for their recommendations prior to moving forward with the Township.
  - iv. In April of 2022 the Ingham County Drain Commissioner wrote a letter of recommendation after meeting with Mr. Schultz and his engineer.
  - v. The ICDC came to the conclusion that Mr. Schultz’s lot would not currently meet ICDC standards.
  - vi. The ICDC recommended utilizing the preserve property as an emergency overflow to prevent future flooding – directing flow onto Meridian property (Davis Foster Preserve), then west toward Van Atta Road.
    1. Flow would run toward Van Atta Road then enters the easterly roadside ditch, under the jurisdiction of the Ingham County Road Department.
    2. The flow would then pass through a cross culvert adjoining the drain on Meridian property.
    3. A flowage easement would have to be created by the Township with specific conditions, and be the responsibility of the landowner at 730 Knightsford Lane.
  - vii. Township staff met to discuss all options with Mr. Schultz and Mr. Ensign, his engineer.
  - viii. A new letter of recommendation was sent in May of 2022 with conditions and stipulations pending approval from the Land Preservation Advisory Board and the Township Board.
  - ix. In July of 2022 Township Staff met with Mr. Schultz and Mr. Powers from Redwood Landscaping to discuss the details of swale construction and work that has been done to improve flow.
    1. Retention pond will be/was dug out to improve short-term filtration (not a long term solution)
    2. The culvert under the driveway at the property was cleaned out and opened up partially
2. Discussion and concerns from board members:
- i. What is the precedent that this would set for other Township preserves? The future of this scenario needs to be heavily considered.
  - ii. The Township remains empathetic to the community members struggling with flooding issues and mishaps due to outdated

permitting for development, but the preservation of natural areas is a high priority. A balance must be struck for the future of scenarios like this one.

- iii. Concerns about developing a swale on the Davis Foster Preserve:
  1. There is a reasonably good chance that surface water runoff from large rain events will intercept ground water from the wetland. Surface water from residential areas has the potential to be extremely degrading to groundwater in preserves.
  2. Disturbed land that would result from excavation of a swale has a higher chance of growing invasive or weedy plant species, as well as creating soil that can erode and dry out faster. This could make long term management of the area more difficult. Reed Canary grass is an invasive species that moves into areas like this often.
    - a. Due to the swale needing to be re-excavated every 10-20 years, that could cause issues cultivating a native seedbank in that area.
  3. The flowage easement that would need to be created would be passed on to the next landowner, which could create issues with enforcement of maintenance on the easement.
  4. If there are any other reasonable options to provide emergency runoff for large rain events from the 730 Knightsford Lane property, the board would like to see those options investigated as much as possible.
- iv. Suggestions from the board to gather more information and other options to pursue that could provide emergency runoff relief during large storm events:
  1. Install monitoring wells at the proposed swale site on Davis Foster Preserve
    - a. This will provide information on where the ground water level is at the site. Since the board and staff are concerned about surface water mixing with ground water, this will provide more clarification on that specific scenario.
    - b. The board would prefer to keep monitoring wells installed at Davis Foster until spring to get a proper reading on the ground water level. They do understand the urgency for the landowner to reach a decision sooner, but this would provide a more accurate level of ground water in the area.

## **Minutes – Land Preservation Advisory Board**

**November 9, 2022**

Page 4 of 6

2. Get a cost estimate on installing pipe that leads to the existing drain on the western side of the preserve property. The pipe would have to run for an estimated 420 feet to meet the concerns of the board.
  - a. This option would stop surface water from the emergency runoff floodwater from immediately mixing with groundwater on the preserve property.
3. Get a cost estimate for option #3 from the ICDC recommendation letter, constructing a berm with pumps to provide a barrier between the overflow from the private retention basin and Mr. Schultz's house. A pump will be required to drain trapped water behind the berm.

**Board member Stephens makes a motion to table Item 6A, 730 Knightsford Lane Drainage Issue, until the suggested information is gathered by the homeowner and presented at the next meeting scheduled for January 11, 2023. Vice Chair Thomas seconded.**

**Voice vote: Unanimous.**

### **7. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Wetland Restoration & Education Program Update
  1. Board member Grassesschi is absent, staff member Campbell decides to discuss updates at next meeting.
- B. Climate Sustainability Plan
  1. Input on Wetlands & Water Quality Section
    - i. Board member Grassesschi is absent, staff member Campbell decides to discuss updates at next meeting and advises board members to send any input on the Water Quality Section of CSP plan to board member Grassesschi.

**(CLOSED SESSION BEGINS)**

- C. Land Acquisition Update

**(CLOSED SESSION ENDS)**

### **7. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Land Preservation Advisory Board 2023 Meeting Resolution
  1. Resolution document (next page)

**Board member Stephens makes a motion to approve the Land Preservation Advisory Board 2023 Meeting Resolution. Board member Parnell seconded.**

**Voice vote: Unanimous.**

# Minutes – Land Preservation Advisory Board

November 9, 2022

Page 5 of 6

## RESOLUTION

At a regular meeting of the Land Preservation Advisory Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Meridian Service Center, in said Township on the 9th day of November, 2022 at 6:00 pm, Local Time.

PRESENT: Jamie Hiller, Yu Man Lee, Steve Thomas, Mark Stephens, Kris Parnell

ABSENT: Courtney Wisinski and Kendra Grassesschi

The following resolution was offered by Board Member Stephens and supported by Board Member Parnell.

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 2023 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 2023 MEETING SCHEDULE AS FOLLOWS:**

| Date         | Location       | Meeting Time            |
|--------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| January 11   | Service Center | 6:00 pm regular meeting |
| February     | NO MEETING     | NO MEETING              |
| March 8      | Service Center | 6:00 pm regular meeting |
| April 12     | Service Center | 6:00 pm regular meeting |
| May 10       | Service Center | 6:00 pm regular meeting |
| June 17      | Service Center | 6:00 pm regular meeting |
| July 12      | Service Center | 6:00 pm regular meeting |
| August 9     | Service Center | 6:00 pm regular meeting |
| September 13 | Service Center | 6:00 pm regular meeting |
| October 11   | Service Center | 6:00 pm regular meeting |
| November 8   | Service Center | 6:00 pm regular meeting |
| December     | NO MEETING     | NO MEETING              |

1. The Land Preservation Advisory Board has set a schedule to meet on the second Wednesday of the month. No meeting will be held for the month of February and December, unless one is called by the chairperson.
2. Each of the above meetings shall be held at the specified time in the lunch room of the Meridian Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Ct., Haslett, Michigan, (517) 853-4600; unless changed and noticed in accordance with MCL 15.265
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 posted in the Meridian Municipal Building within ten (10) days after the first regularly scheduled meeting of the year in accordance with the MCL 15.265

YEAS: Jamie Hiller, Steve Thomas, Yu Man Lee, Mark Stephens, Kris Parnell

NAYS: None

Resolution declared adopted.

STATE OF MICHIGAN )  
 ) ss:  
 COUNTY OF INGHAM )

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified Chairperson of the Land Preservation Advisory Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Land Preservation Advisory Board held on the 9th day of November, 2022.

*Jamie Hiller*  
 Jamie Hiller, Chair  
 Land Preservation Advisory Board

## Minutes – Land Preservation Advisory Board

November 9, 2022

Page 6 of 6

### 8. REPORTS

- A. STAFF REPORT: Stewardship Coordinator, Emma Campbell
  - 1. Staff member Campbell discusses end of year stewardship and reporting. Annual report and goals for 2023 will be presented and discussed at the January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting.
  - 2. Current stewardship initiatives are native seed collection and sowing, invasive species removal and litter pickup.
- B. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Kendra Grassesschi
  - 1. Board Member Grassesschi is absent, no report is given.
- C. PARK COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Mark Stephens
  - 1. Board member Stephens did not report anything from the Park Commission, but does mention that there are an array of native wildflowers growing in the drainage area that was recently improved at Hillbrook Park.

### 9. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. None.

### 10. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

- A. None.

### 11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, January 11, 2023 at 6 pm at the Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett 48840.

### 12. ADJOURNMENT

**Board member Parnell moved to adjourn the meeting.** Vice chair Thomas seconded.

**VOICE VOTE:** Motion carried unanimously.

Vice Chair Thomas adjourned the meeting at 9:11 pm.

**Land Preservation Advisory Board  
2023 Meeting Schedule**

**RESOLUTION**

At a regular meeting of the Land Preservation Advisory Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held at the Meridian Service Center, in said Township on the 9th day of November, 2022 at 6:00 pm, Local Time.

PRESENT: Jamie Hiller, Yu Man Lee, Steve Thomas, Mark Stephens, Kris Parnell

ABSENT: Courtney Wisinski and Kendra Grassesschi

The following resolution was offered by Board Member Stephens and supported by Board Member Parnell.

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 2023 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 2023 MEETING SCHEDULE AS FOLLOWS:**

Date

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- 3. Special meetings of the Land Preservation Advisory Board may be called pursuant to the statute thereto appertaining.
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- 5. A summary of this resolution stating date, place, and time shall be posted in the Meridian Municipal Building within ten (10) days after the first regularly scheduled meeting of the year in accordance with the MCL 15.265

YEAS: Jamie Hiller, Steve Thomas, Yu Man Lee, Mark Stephens, Kris Parnell

NAYS: None

Resolution declared adopted.

STATE OF MICHIGAN )  
                               ) ss:  
COUNTY OF INGHAM )

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified Chairperson of the Land Preservation Advisory Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Land Preservation Advisory Board held on the 9<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2022.

Jamie Hiller  
Jamie Hiller, Chair  
Land Preservation Advisory Board