



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Davis-Foster Land Preserve
5120 Van Atta Road, Okemos MI
Wednesday, May 12, 2021, 6 PM

PRESENT: Board Members: Steve Thomas, Mark Stephens, Jamie Hiller, Chanelle Russ, Kris Parnell, Kendra Grasseschi.
ABSENT: Board Members: Yu Man Lee.
STAFF: Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator; Rebecca Fisher, Stewardship Intern
TOWNSHIP: Township Trustee, Dan Opsommer

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

CHAIR HILLER MOVED TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:00 PM.

2. APPROVE AGENDA

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED TO APPROVE MAY 12, 2021 AGENDA. Board member Parnell seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED TO APPROVE THE APRIL 14, 2021 MINUTES. Seconded by Board Member Parnell.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

4. PRESENTATIONS

A. Deputy Township Manager, Derek Perry, to present Township Pathway Master Plan
Derek Perry presents Township Pathway Master Plan to board, putting emphasis on areas that enhance and travel near land preserves in the Township.

1. Short-term plan will focus on MSU to Lake Lansing pathway and park use in-between
2. Longer term plans will be to focus on gaps within the pathway system, perhaps utilizing some of the land preserves to fill those gaps.

5. COMMUNICATIONS - NONE

6. OLD BUSINESS

- A. 2021 Financial Support for local conservation organizations
 1. Updated list of local organizations to support presented by Staff Member Campbell
 - A. Ingham Conservation District
 - I. Their conservation mission and invasive species management goals align with the Township's Invasive Species Management Plan. A

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strike team will start treating priority species throughout Ingham County this year, such as Japanese Knotweed and Phragmites

B. Mid-Michigan Stewardship Network

- I. Keep donation to Friends of the Ingham County Parks (keep donation the same or increase)

B. Lake Lansing South Preserve

1. Improvements – Native Seedbank Garden

- a. Staff Member Campbell goes over outline of design and benefits. Davis-Foster will also receive a native seedbank garden, location already chosen and staked out

2. Encroachment issues and improvements

- a. Board discusses how to remedy mowing encroachment. Staff member Campbell discusses options of split rail fence, installation of signage, and letter to neighbors.

1. Next meeting will be held at Lake Lansing South Preserve to discuss location of split rail fence, management options and pike spawning habitat.

C. Davis-Foster Improvements

1. Overlook plans: Board walks the property to determine a location for the wildlife viewing overlook. Two experts from Michigan Audubon, Bruce Cohen and Chrissy ?, are present to aid in the decision process.

- a. The overlook was planned for the front entrance. An overlook located on the hill down the main trail, about 900 feet in, the view is the best to observe the entire preserve. Both Audubon experts agree with the location.

- b. Designs and height of overlook are discussed: An ADA accessible ramp would need to be included. The overlook would only need to be at the height level of the grass, between 3' and 5' tall.

- c. Moving forward staff member Campbell will pursue bids for overlook designs and signage.

2. Security improvements

- a. Board discusses security cameras on preserve maintenance building to reduce the presence of motorized vehicle on property

3. Native Seedbank Garden

- a. A variety of native pollinator plants will be installed as a seedbank garden on May 22, 2021.

4. Signage:

- a. Preserve rule signage

- b. Updated name signage changing from Foster-Davis to Davis-Foster

- c. Interpretive signage for the wildlife viewing overlook, native seedbank garden, prairie benefits, and prescribed burn benefits

7. NEW BUSINESS

A. MSU Forestry class research

1. MSU Forestry class will be developing a forestry management plan for parcels at Lake Lansing North as part of their final class project. They will present their findings and management recommendations to staff member Campbell on May 14th, 2021.

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8. STAFF REPORT

A. Stewardship Coordinator

A. Stewardship Workdays

- I. Ted Black Woods: 27 volunteers 54 hours, removing invasive species
- II. Tihart-Cornell Wetland Earth Day Cleanup: 24 volunteers, 60 hours
- III. Harris Nature Center: 9 volunteers, 13.5 hours, 400 pounds of dame's rocket removed
- IV. Towar Woods Preserve: 5 volunteers, 12.5 hours, 205 native trees planted
- V. Sowar Woods Preserve: 5 volunteers, 12.5 hours, removed invasive species
- VI. Hartrick Park: 25 volunteers, 62.5 hours, 800 pounds of garlic mustard and dame's rocket removed

9. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - NONE

10. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

- A. Pike spawning area at Lake Lansing South Preserve area
 - I. DNR fisheries contacts to be present at next meeting

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at Lake Lansing South Preserve.

12. ADJOURNMENT

BOARD MEMBER GRASSESSCHI MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. Seconded by Board Member Russ.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.