



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Lake Lansing South Preserve
5763 Carlton Rd, Okemos MI
Wednesday, June 9, 2021, 6 PM

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

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

CHAIR HILLER MOVED TO CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:01 PM.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Three members of the public have come to the meeting to voice concerns about land preservation ordinance, section 22-113. All three residents are adjacent neighbors to land preservation property.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

TRUSTEE OPSOMMER MOVED TO APPROVE THE JUNE 9, 2021 AGENDA. Board member Russ seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAY 12, 2021 MINUTES. Seconded by Board Member Parnell.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Brief history of the Lake Lansing South Preserve: Lake Lansing South, was purchased from Merle Potter. It was once used as a livestock holding area for the railroad. Shortly after it was used as a lumber yard and also received top soil from developers. A railroad accident also caused a large spill of silica sand in the area, so the soil profile is highly disturbed due to both of these periods of time. The Township Land Preservation Program purchased the property in 2010 to act as a buffer to Lake Lansing in hopes to help improve the watershed and help mitigate storm water runoff that would otherwise end up in the lake.

5. OLD BUSINESS

Minutes – Land Preservation Advisory Board

June 9, 2021

Page 2 of 3

A. Lake Lansing South Preserve

1. Pike spawning area

a. MDNR recommendations are made from Joe Nohner and Addie Dutton, regional Fisheries Biologists: Recommendations are hard to make since a fish survey has not been done in Lake Lansing since 1995. Without knowing how many pike are in the lake already, it is hard to make recommendations on whether or not numbers should be increased or decreased. There is a plan to survey the lake soon in the future to estimate more accurate numbers of fish species. (Reach out to MSU: a fish management class may be interested in surveying Lake Lansing and doing an inventory on fish species).

b. Improvements that can be made for fish habitat and associated wildlife:

1. Adjacent wetlands are mostly homogenous in plant species – look into removing invasive species and planting diverse native aquatic species.
2. Remove debris and litter from drains that connect Lake Lansing to surrounding wetlands. Opening up the drains and making them a larger diameter will also welcome a diversity of fish species that may be too small for the current diameter. Creating a more natural culvert as opposed to using a corrugated pipe is also more attractive to fish. This is a project that can take place during development projects – consult Township engineers. Adding a mechanism to adjust water levels would also be helpful to combat aquatic invasive species like cattails and phragmites.
3. The Fisheries Habitat Grant would be helpful and attainable for these habitat improvements.
4. Consult a wetland specialist to get a more formal approach to management techniques that would improve habitat for native fish, wildlife, insects and plants.

2. Encroachment issues and improvements

a. Current issues are:

1. Violation of the Land Preservation Ordinance Section 22-113, which states, “that no installation, construction, or maintenance shall be made above or below ground, across or beneath Land Preservation Property by any person, except duly authorized personnel, or without written permission from the Land Preservation Advisory Board.”

A. Currently adjacent neighbors mow anywhere from 20’ to 100’ onto preserve property.

2. Violation of the Land Preservation Ordinance Section 22-95, which states, “that you may not damage, deface, destroy, throw or deposit trash or litter on land preservation property.”

A. A few litter piles were reported from previous landowners and have been noted. One report of debris from August of 2020 has since been taken care of properly

b. Improvements to the preserve & signage:

1. Split rail fence to delineate preserve property from private property.
2. A mowing memorandum of 10’ is proposed to allow adjacent

Minutes – Land Preservation Advisory Board

June 9, 2021

Page 3 of 3

neighbors to manage 10' of land between their property and the split rail fence.

3. Removal and management of invasive plants such as teasel, autumn olive, dame's rocket and reed canary grass.
4. Installation of native plants through a native seedbank garden as well as intentional plantings of native tree species.
5. Installation of Preserve name signage, rule signage, and tick signage. Interpretive signage for native seedbank gardens.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. Mowing Agreement Memorandum

1. Board members discuss the 10' distance proposed in the Mowing Memorandum Agreement and explore other options. It is agreed that Township lawyers and staff should be conferred with as a next step.

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOOVED TO TABLE THE MOWING AGREEMENT MEMORANDUM DISCUSSION. Vice Chair Stephens seconded.

7. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

- A. Members of the public object to proposed Mowing Memorandum of 10' and to the Land Preservation Ordinance Section 22-113.

8. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

- A. BOARD MEMBERS DISCUSS OTHER OPTIONS BESIDES A SPLIT RAIL FENCE AS WELL AS THE MOWING MEMORANDUM DISTANCE OF 10'

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, July 9th, 2021 at Lake Lansing North Preserve.

10. ADJOURNMENT

BOARD MEMBER PARNELL MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.