



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Zoom Meeting
Wednesday, September 8th, 2021, 6 PM

PRESENT: Board Members: Jamie Hiller, Steve Thomas, Kris Parnell, Yu Man Lee, Kendra Grassesschi, Chanelle Russ.
ABSENT: Board Members: Mark Stephens. Trustee Opsommer absent after 6:40 pm.
STAFF: Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator
TOWNSHIP: Township Trustee, Dan Opsommer

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. NONE.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

TRUSTEE OPSOMMER MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 8TH, 2021 AGENDA. Board member Parnell seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

TRUSTEE OPSOMMER MOVED TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 25TH, 2021 MINUTES. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

A. None.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Davis-Foster Preserve maintenance and improvements
 - 1. Bids for wildlife viewing overlook at two different locations
 - a. Coordinator Campbell briefs the board on the bid process and what factors need to be considered for this project:
 - 1. Impact of heavy equipment on preserve land. If the overlook is placed in the middle of the preserve equipment will impact more area. If it is placed in the front at the parking lot, impact from equipment will be minimal.
 - 2. ADA accessibility is a priority: Department staff feel it may be too

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difficult to manage the pathway out to the overlook for ADA accessibility. If the overlook is placed in the parking lot, accessibility will be much easier.

3. A two-story component to the overlook may be considered if it is placed in the parking to give users a better view of the preserve.

b. The board discusses the options: The location of the overlook on the hill will not be considered due to ADA accessibility and impact of equipment on the preserve. Coordinator Campbell will pursue bids for the spring 2022 season at the location in the front parking lot.

2. Burn unit pathway revisions

a. Mitigate mowing in sensitive areas

1. Coordinator Campbell briefs the board on closure of a burn break at Davis-Foster that has presented safety hazards for the grounds crew. Sinkholes and soft ground at the bottom of the hill have made it unsafe for mowing. There is also unnecessary impact on the soils and plants in that area due to the mowers sinking in to the mud, creating ruts and eroding the soil. This is a very sensitive area with a diverse array of grasses and forbes. The burn breaks will no longer be mowed in this area.
2. Board members question whether or not there are old drains in the Davis-Foster Preserve that may be removed to restore historic hydrology of the area. Coordinator Campbell will report back on this subject.

B. Renaming of Preserves: Finalized list for new names

1. Board Members vote on finalized list for preserve names. The results are as follows (names with the most votes are highlighted in yellow):

- Lake Lansing South Preserve
 - Pike preserve
 - Voice votes during roll call: None.
 - **Pike crossing preserve**
 - Voice vote unanimous.
- Central Meridian Uplands
 - **Okemos Road Preserve**
 - Voice vote unanimous.
 - Eberly Preserve
 - Voice votes during roll call: None.
 - Pine Lake Preserve
 - Voice votes during roll call: None.
- Meridian Central Wetland Preserve
 - Haslett Marsh Preserve
 - Voice votes during roll call: None.
 - **Inter-Urban Wetland Preserve**
 - Voice vote unanimous.
- North Ridge Preserve
 - **Glacial Ridge Preserve**
 - Voice vote unanimous.
 - North Ridge Preserve
 - Voice votes during roll call: None.

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- Whitehills Preserve
 - Voice votes during roll call: None.
- SW Uplands Preserve
 - Heron Creek Preserve
 - Voice vote unanimous.
- Tihart-Cornell Wetland
 - Cornell Wetlands
 - Voice vote unanimous.
 - Mud Lake Wetlands
 - Voice votes during roll call: None.
 - Cornell Oaks Preserve
 - Voice votes during roll call: None.
- Tihart Preserve
 - This was the only option and voice vote was unanimous to keep it Tihart Preserve.

BOARD MEMBER GRASSESSCHI MADE A MOTION TO RENAME THE SELECTED PRESERVE PROPERTIES AND INSTALL THE CORRECT SIGNAGE. Board member Parnell seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

7. REPORTS

- A. STAFF REPORT: Stewardship Coordinator, Emma Campbell
 - 1. Late summer stewardship: herbicide treatment of invasive species; Japanese knotweed, spotted knapweed, field thistle, and phragmites. Cut-stump management season had started and invasive shrub removal will be the center of volunteer efforts for the rest of the year until spring.
- B. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Kendra Grassesschi
 - 1. Board Member Grassesschi briefs the board on the 12 month plan for the wetland education campaign. This campaign will focus on the collaboration of Township departments (Engineering, Land Preservation, Environmental Commission, Parks, and Code Enforcement) to educate the community on existing wetland ordinances to protect all wetlands $\frac{1}{4}$ of an acre and larger in size. It is also meant to educate the community on the environmental and residential benefits that wetlands provide.
- C. PARK COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Mark Stephens
 - 1. Board member Stephens was absent, so no Park Commission report.

8. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

- A. NONE.

9. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

- A. Chair Hiller will be absent from the November 10, 2021 meeting.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, November 10, 2021 over Zoom.

11. ADJOURNMENT

BOARD MEMBER PARNELL MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. Board member Grassesschi seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting is adjourned at 7:34 pm.