



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

PRESENT: Board Members: Jamie Hiller, Steve Thomas, Kris Parnell, Mark Stephens, Kendra Grassesschi, Chanelle Russ.
ABSENT: Board Members: Yu Man Lee.
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 6:08 PM.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Stephen Schultz, a resident of the Township is present to discuss Agenda Item 6A.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

Board member Grassesschi makes a motion to amend the Agenda to add item 6A, a discussion on the process of decision making by the Land Preservation Advisory Board. Item 6A, Stephen Schultz drainage discussion, will be added as item 6B on the Agenda.

Vice Chair Thomas makes a motion to amend the Agenda to add item 6C, to discuss the process of acquiring land through the Land Preservation Program.

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 10TH, 2021 AGENDA AS AMENDED. Trustee Opsommer seconded.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

BOARD MEMBER GRASSESSCHI MOVED TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 8TH, 2021 MINUTES. Seconded by Trustee Opsommer.

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

A. No board meeting in December 2021.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Process and procedure for decision making by the Land Preservation Advisory Board
1. Township staff vets projects and proposals, discussing items and information needed from presenter (contractor, resident, staff, etc.). Staff then places the item on

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the next meeting's agenda for presentation and discussion

2. Item goes on agenda for discussion amongst board members. Member of public who brought the proposal forward will be invited to speak during their allotted time.
 3. The proposal may either be rejected by the board, or move forward to be put on as an action or discussion item for the next board meeting. Additional field visits, or meetings may be required in order to make an informed decision.
- B. Stephen Schultz – Flooding and drainage issue request at Davis-Foster Preserve
1. Chair Hiller gives Mr. Schultz the floor to discuss background information on the issue pertaining to drainage on their property in conjunction with the Davis-Foster Land Preserve. There have been no drainage issues until recently, water levels were the highest during two different large rain events this past summer. The water table has risen so much that Mr. Schultz basement flooded and has received damage from the event.
 2. Mr. Schultz and his engineer are proposing a swale along the southern property edge on Davis-Foster Preserve to divert heavy rainfall that is draining off the Preserve. The purpose of the swale would only be to catch rain during heavy rain events, or flash floods. No work will be done near the wetland, and only extend along tree line.
 3. Board Members concerns and questions:
 - a. How will fertilizer and pesticide use from neighboring properties affect the runoff onto the preserve?
 - b. How large is the area of disturbance?
 1. Mr. Schultz responds that the swale would be approximately 200 feet long by 30 feet wide as it tapers out – about 6,000 square feet total.
 - c. How does this affect the precedence of floodwater diversion on other land preserves in the Township? The Township legal team will be consulted.
 - d. Would the hydrology of the surrounding wetlands be changed during large storm events? Since large storm events are expected to increase in coming years, will the hydrology remain changed from this diversion?
 - e. Has the Ingham Drain Office been contacted to discuss a long-term solution involving the Davis Drain to the North?
 - f. The main concern from all members is that we reach a solution that will help solve Mr. Schultz's drainage issues, while protecting the land preserve at the same time.
 4. Staff Members will take the proposal to the Engineering Department, as well as the Planning Department and come up with a list of recommendations for Mr. Schultz.
- C. Land acquisition procedure
1. If the board or members are interested in a particular parcel for acquisition, the board can approach the landowner with a letter and a land preservation application for them to review. Once the application is signed, the board is given permission to enter the property and do a walkthrough to complete screening criteria.
 2. Vice Chair Thomas will bring addresses of interest to the next meeting, and a closed session will be allowed to review the parcels.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Lake Lansing North prescribed burn update

1. The burn is planned for anytime between November 17th and December 17th. If timing

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and weather does not allow for a fall burn, it will take place next spring before April 5th.

- B. Wetland Education Campaign
 - 1. Mailed letter and brochure to 1460 residents that live adjacent to wetlands
 - 2. Tihart-Cornell annual fall wetland cleanup, November 20th
 - 3. Presentation to Capital Area Conservation Stewards Program
- C. Planting a Native Meridian Program Expansion
 - 1. Fall seed collection and planting
 - 2. Work with local nurseries

8. REPORTS

- A. STAFF REPORT: Stewardship Coordinator, Emma Campbell
 - 1. Fall/Winter Stewardship plans: Invasive management will be moving into the removal of invasive shrubs out of priority area using a cut-stump method. Most of the fall stewardship focus has been on native seed collection and planting.
- B. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Kendra Grassesschi
 - 1. Board Member Grassesschi briefs the board on the collaboration and work happening between Township Departments as well as the Boards and Commissions to plan for flood mitigation, pollution reduction and improving our wetland habitats. Specifically the Parks Department, Engineering Department, and Planning Department are working with the Environmental Commission, the Board of Trustees and the Land Preservation Advisory Board. She also reminds the board that we have the ability to call joint meetings with other commissions and boards for problem solving and to discuss broad issues.
- C. PARK COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Mark Stephens
 - 1. Board member Stephens had to leave the meeting early, so no Park Commission report.

9. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

- A. Stephen Schultz requests that if the board does a walk-through of the Davis-Foster property to discuss the drainage issue, that he and his engineer may be invited. Staff member Campbell makes a note.

10. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

- A. Board members request to include the following on January's agenda: parcels to review for acquisition (closed session), land preservation financial review. They also request that we schedule a field visit to Davis-Foster to discuss drainage swale.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, January 12, 2021 over at the Service Center.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

VOICE VOTE: Motion carried unanimously.

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The meeting is adjourned at 8:13 pm.

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