



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday April 12, 2023 6:00 pm
Township Service Center
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett 48840

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. PUBLIC COMMENT
3. APPROVE AGENDA
 - A. April 12, 2023
4. APPROVE MINUTES
 - A. March 8, 2023
5. COMMUNICATIONS
 - A. Town Hall building renovations
6. DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - A. Overview of Green Burial board letter of support
 - B. May meeting reschedule date & potential meeting time change
 - a. 17th, 24th, or 31st
 - C. Meeting protocol refresher
 - D. 730 Knightsford Lane Drainage Issue Recap
7. REPORTS
 - A. STAFF REPORT: Stewardship Coordinator, Emma Campbell
 - a. Update on current preservation projects & issues
 - i. Update on preservation signage
 - ii. Lake Lansing South Preserve
 - b. Stewardship work for Spring 2023
 - i. Prescribed burn debriefing
 - B. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Kendra Grassesschi
 - C. PARK COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Mark Stephens
8. PUBLIC COMMENT
9. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS
10. ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - A. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, May 10, 2023 at 6 pm at the Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett 48840.
11. ADJOURNMENT

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 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Township Service Center
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court | Haslett, MI
Wednesday, March 8, 2023, 6 PM

PRESENT: Board Members: Jamie Hiller, Steve Thomas, Kris Parnell, Mark Stephens, Kendra Grassesschi, Kathy Fay.
ABSENT: Yu Man Lee.
STAFF: Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator
TOWNSHIP: Trustee Courtney Wisinski.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Hiller calls to the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. NONE.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

A. March 8, 2023

Commissioner Stephens moved to approve the March 8, 2023 Agenda and place on file. Commissioner Grassesschi seconded.

Voice vote: unanimous.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

A. February 8, 2023

Board member Fay moves to amend the minutes to correct the spelling of 'Faye' to 'Fay' as well as correct the job title to reflect, 'managed State Police Facilities Maintenance'.

Commissioner Stephens moves to amend the minutes to correct 'Vice Chair' Stephens to Commissioner Stephens.

Commissioner Stephens moved to place the February 8, 2023 minutes on file as amended. Board member Fay seconded.

Voice vote: Unanimous.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Updated Board Member Packets

a. Will be updated each year on a flash drive

B. May meeting & time

a. Meeting must be rescheduled for May 17th, 24th or 31st

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- b. Board members ask to table the issue place it under Discussion Items for the April agenda
- c. Staff member Campbell proposes that the board can decide a meeting time that may fit better with the majority of member's schedules
- d. Table until the April discussion and then decide what to do – put it under DISCUSSION ITEMS

6. PRESENTATION

A. Green Burial Committee

- a. Bruce Peffers, Chair of the Green Burial Committee, gives a brief overview of the definition of a Green Burial and the different classifications.
 - i. Green Burial is by definition a burial that utilizes biodegradable materials only. It can provide a richer, more personal experience for the family, as they are charged with the burial process.
 - ii. Non-treated wood, whicker, cotton shrouds, and others are allowed for use in designated areas.
 - iii. The landscaping requires no maintenance, no pesticide or fertilizer use, everything is left to its natural state.
- b. There are three types of Green Burials
 - i. Hybrid: a Green Burial area inside of a traditional cemetery
 - ii. Natural: a Green Burial within a natural area and has different restrictions for what can and cannot be used.
 - iii. Conservation burial – land trust preserves, portion of it is used for green burials. I.e. up north in Manistee Huron National Forest, 20 acres, is being used for that purpose
- c. Mr. Peffers proposes land preserves as a space for this use.
- d. The board discusses the issue and asks questions of Mr. Peffers.
 - i. Board Members comments:
 - 1. Land preserves are purchased for a very specific use of passive recreation and land preservation. The intermittent disturbance from a Green Burial may not be the right fit for these areas.
 - 2. There is a concern for the long term maintenance of a Green Burial area in land preserves, and who would be charged with that responsibility.
 - 3. Would the conservation option for burial classifications allow true succession to happen in preserves? There is a concern for intermittent disturbance in some areas of preserves.
 - 4. Could be technical and legal issues and hurdles to get over.
 - 5. The board is in support of this idea, but does not believe the land preserves to be a proper placement for green burials.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS (CLOSED SESSION)

Vice Chair Thomas moves to go into closed session. Commissioner Stephens seconded.

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Roll call:

Yayes: Steve Thomas, Jaimie Hiller, Kendra Grassesschi, Kris Parnell, Kathy Fay, Mark Stephens, Courtney Wisinski.

Nays: None.

Vice Chair Thomas makes a motion to move into open session. Board member Fay seconded.

Roll call:

Yayes: Steve Thomas, Jaimie Hiller, Kendra Grassesschi, Kris Parnell, Kathy Fay, Mark Stephens, Courtney Wisinski.

Nays: None.

(END CLOSED SESSION)

8. REPORTS

A. STAFF REPORT: Stewardship Coordinator, Emma Campbell

- a. Update on current preservation projects & issues
 - i. Rule signage: working on getting the posts in the ground for MISSDIG, as well as for grounds crew
 - 1. Signs have been ordered but not yet delivered
 - a. Waiting to rename preserves until all signage is installed. Communications will cover the event.
 - 2. Working on individual educational signage around dogs on leashes
 - a. Partner with dog trainers to make educational resources
 - ii. 730 Knightsford Lane Drainage Issue
 - 1. No contact or updates from landowners and/or engineer, we will be meeting with them in May
 - iii. Lake Lansing South Preserve Mowing Policy
 - 1. Mowing is still going on in the warm season
 - 2. Township signs have been taken down
 - 3. Ordinance is not being enforced because we need photographic proof, although the homeowners have freely admitted they mow
 - 4. We will install a preserve sign on the Haslett Road Side
- b. Stewardship work for Spring 2023
 - i. Prescribed burns at Davis Foster Preserve and Red Cedar Glen Preserve for spring 2023 (LLNP Fall of 2023)
 - 1. Vegetation surveys for spring, summer, fall to document the effect of prescribed fire on local flora diversity
 - ii. March Stewardship Calendar and spring plans for herbaceous invasive removal. Harris Nature Center Native Plant Sale, May 6th
 - iii. Vernal Pool Patrol project; MCC will be adopting pools to visit throughout

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- the year; another way for volunteers to participate
- iv. Hiring for the Stewardship Field Assistant, Rebecca Fisher will remain on board for the summer as the seasonal Stewardship Assistant
- v. Native plant guide is now online
- B. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Kendra Grassesschi
 - a. Still working on updating the Water Quality portion of the Climate Sustainability Plan, and taking input from board members
- C. PARK COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Mark Stephens
 - A. None.
- 9. PUBLIC COMMENT
 - a. None.
- 10. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS
 - a. Board members consider the idea of changing the current meeting time. Will be discussed at next meeting during DISCUSSION ITEMS.
- 11. ANNOUNCEMENTS
 - a. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 6 pm at the Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett 48840.
- 12. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Thomas moves to adjourn the meeting. Board member Fay seconded.

Chair Hiller adjourned the meeting at 7:46 pm.

1. 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.
2. Mr. Schultz and his engineer attended the November 2021 meeting to discuss the issue with the board.
3. 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.
4. In April of 2022 the Ingham County Drain Commissioner wrote a letter of recommendation after meeting with Mr. Schultz and his engineer.
 - a. The ICDC came to the conclusion that Mr. Schultz's lot would not currently meet ICDC standards.
 - b. The ICDC recommended utilizing the preserve property as an emergency overflow to prevent future flooding – directing flow onto Meridian property, then west toward Van Atta Road.
 - i. Flow toward Van Atta Road then enters the easterly roadside ditch, under the jurisdiction of the Ingham County Road Department.
 - ii. The flow would then pass through a cross culvert adjoining the drain on Meridian property.
 - iii. 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.
5. Township staff met to discuss all options with Mr. Schultz and Mr. Ensign, his engineer.
 - a. 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.
6. 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.
 - a. Retention pond will be/was dug out to improve short-term filtration (not a long term solution)
 - b. The culvert under the driveway at the property was cleaned out and opened up partially
7. An easement could be structured with the condition that the swale may be installed and maintained until such time that the Foster Drain could accommodate the appropriate drainage.
8. Maintenance: sediment would need to be cleaned out every _____ years.
 - a. Ask engineer what they think this timeline would be.
9. Contractor can spare certain plants if needed and anything that we would not want dug up



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 15th 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.

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- 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.

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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.

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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 11th, 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.



Meridian Township
5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, MI 48864

P 517.853.4000
F 517.853.4096

Township Board:

Patricia Jackson
Township Supervisor

Deborah Guthrie
Township Clerk

Phil Deschaine
Township Treasurer

Scott Hendrickson
Township Trustee

Marna Wilson
Township Trustee

Kathy Ann Sundland
Township Trustee

Courtney Wisinski
Township Trustee

Frank L. Walsh
Township Manager

May 23, 2022

Stephen & Jane Schultz
730 Knightsford Lane
Okemos, MI 48864

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Schultz,

We have corresponded with you about the issue you are facing with drainage on your property in conjunction with the Davis-Foster Preserve to the North. While we would like to do everything in our power to help you with your situation, we do need to consider the protection of the Davis-Foster Preserve as we proceed forward. Currently we have a list of options that we believe would be the best to pursue to clear up the issues you are facing. We take the damage to your property very seriously and want to make sure whatever remedy is decided on, will be the best in the long-term for both your property and the Preserve.

Proposed suggestions from Township Staff:

1. **Installation of a swale on the Davis-Foster Preserve pending approval from the Land Preservation Advisory Board & Township Board.** If the proposed swale is approved by both boards, there will be stipulations in place of what will be required. Requirements for the approved swale are as follows:
 - a. Removal of invasive species within the area of flooding (as to reduce spread of invasive species through construction and runoff)
 - b. Addition of native flowers, shrubs, and grasses will need to be planted to add ecological value to the area, as well as increase the absorption of water
 - i. All plant species must be pre-approved by the Township, and of local Michigan genotype. A plant list will be provided to aid in planning of this area, which includes resources for this.
 - c. All plans for the swale need to be approved by Township staff first before going on to the Boards for approval.
 - d. The addition of native plants around the edge of the retention pond located on your property will aid in flood mitigation. The Township recommends a 10 to 20 foot buffer around the pond (in most areas, where it does not inhibit general maintenance of the property) to add extra water retention for the area during large rain events.
 - e. A plan for how equipment will be brought on to the preserve and restricted areas of use will need to be outlined before any construction proceeds. Stipulations such as, equipment being cleaned before entrance into the preserve to reduce the spread of invasive seeds.
 - f. The proposed swale, if approved, will require a written agreement from the Township, likely in the form of a flowage easement outlining the



flowage out to the Davis-Foster Preserve, and possibly to the Foster Drain outlet during large rain events.

- g. The swale will not be intended to drain the retention basin located on 730 Knightsford Lane, but simply provide an emergency overflow to prevent future flooding should the water rise to that level.

2. Neighborhood petition to connect to one of the established county drains nearby.

- a. Township staff feels this is the best long term solution. The retention pond is not a good source of drainage, and will benefit from a more long-term solution as storm events become more unpredictable.

Again, Option 1 will require approval from both the Land Preservation Advisory Board and Township Board. If you decide to pursue Option 1, you will need to provide a plan including all the stipulations listed above. If you have any questions or concerns about any of the suggestions above, please do not hesitate to reach out via email at ecampbell@meridian.mi.us, or call 517.853.4614. We want to move forward with the best solution, that everyone involved can agree on. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Emma Campbell
Land Stewardship Coordinator
Meridian Township

APRIL

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CONSERVE



STEWARDSHIP SATURDAYS | 9:30 AM - 12 PM

These workdays occur every other Saturday year round.

- April 8th, Eastgate Park, Invasive mustard pull
- April 22nd, Pull-Pizza-Plant @ Harris Nature Center

- 9:30 am - 12 pm Invasive mustard pull
- 1 pm - 3:30 pm Native seed sowing



PIZZA FOR LUNCH

WETLAND WALK | 5:30 PM - 7 PM | Nancy Moore Park

- This hike will focus on native wetland plants & what is emerging! We will look for bird & amphibian life as well.

MSU SCIENCE FESTIVAL BIOBLITZ KICKOFF | 1:30-3:30 PM

- Harris Nature Center | Help inventory flora & fauna!
- This MSU Bioblitz will be running all month long, but you can come out for a training, and to help us identify as many species of plants, wildlife, insects, and fungi as we can find!

WEEKDAY WARRIORS | Occurs Bi-weekly | 1 - 3 PM

- April 13th & 27th will be litter pickup along Central Park Dr.

TRAILSIDE ECOLOGY | Spring Ephemeral Hike | Hartrick Park

- Join us at 3658 Hulett Rd, Okemos for a walk to talk about spring wildflowers & their important ecology

LOVE A PARK DAY | Various locations | 5 PM - 7 PM

- Sign up to show one of our parks some LOVE at <https://signup.com/go/NUEtZid>

STEWARDSHIP

* ALL EVENTS ARE WEATHER DEPENDENT & MAY BE CANCELLED THE DAY OF

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
26 MAR	27	28	29	30 WEEKDAY WARRIORS 1-3 PM	31	1 MSU BIOBLITZ KICKOFF 1:30 - 3:30 PM
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 STEWARDSHIP SATURDAY 9:30-12 PM
9	10	11 WETLAND WALK NANCY MOORE 5:30 - 7 PM	12	13 WEEKDAY WARRIORS 1-3 PM	14	15
16	17 TRAILSIDE ECOLOGY 5:30 - 7 PM	18	19 LOVE A PARK DAY 5 - 7 PM	20	21	22 EARTH DAY STEWARDSHIP *2 EVENTS*
23	24	25	26	27 WEEKDAY WARRIORS 1-3 PM	28	29

PLEASE CONTACT EMMA AT ECAMPBELL@MERIDIAN.MI.US, OR 517.853.4614