



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 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup>

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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.**