



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday August 9, 2023 6:00 pm
Red Cedar Glen Preserve
1389 Sylvan Glen Drive, Okemos, MI 48864

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. PUBLIC COMMENT
3. APPROVE AGENDA
 - A. August 9, 2023
4. APPROVE MINUTES
 - A. June 14, 2023
5. COMMUNICATIONS
6. DISCUSSION ITEMS
 - A. Red Cedar Glen Preserve Overview & Stewardship Plan
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. 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, September 13, 2023 at 6 pm at the Central Park Pavilion, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864.
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: 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864

Providing a safe and welcoming, sustainable prime community.





CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Central Park Pavilion
5151 Marsh Road | Okemos, MI
Wednesday, June 14, 2023, 6 PM

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

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

CHAIR HILLER CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 6:06 PM.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. NONE.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

A. June 14, 2023

Vice Chair Thomas offers an amendment to the June 14, 2023 agenda to add Item 6C Use of Motor Assisted Bicycles to DISCUSSION ITEMS.

Commissioner Stephens moved to approve the June 14, 2023 Agenda and place on file as amended. Board member Fay seconded.

Voice vote: unanimous.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

A. April 12, 2023

Board member Lee offers an amendment to the April 12, 2023 minutes to include her as present for that board meeting.

Board member Stephens makes a motion to place the April 12, 2023 minutes on file as amended. Board member Parnell seconded.

Voice vote: Unanimous.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Parks and Recreation Family Fun Guide Release

B. Location update for summer 2023 meetings

a. Meeting at Central Park Pavilion until September

b. Potential preserves for a site visit

Minutes – Land Preservation Advisory Board

June 14, 2023

Page 2 of 4

- i. Red Cedar Glen Preserve for July 12 meeting, update website, and notify Clerks office.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. 730 Knightsford Lane Drainage Issue Conclusion

- a. Property owners have decided to move forward making adjustments and renovations on their private property to alleviate any flooding issues from the surrounding neighborhood and land preserve.
- b. Emma Campbell notified them to reach out in the future if the issues return at any time.

B. Input on Water Quality section of the Climate Sustainability Plan

a. Board members comments:

- i. The Climate Sustainability Plan (CSP) needs to be rewritten every five years. The CSP is posted on the Township website. Commissioner Grassesschi wants to collaborate and get feedback if possible
- ii. The final CSP will have pictures demonstrating flooding in the Township, as well as pictures of wetlands
- iii. Objective is to reduce water use by residents and businesses in the Township through green infrastructure, protection of wetlands and riparian areas, as well as utilizing native plants in landscaping.
- iv. Objectives, strategies, and questions from Board:
 1. 2021 was a year of extreme rain events and there was lots of flooding, while 2022-23 have been drought years. How can we address these climate issues in the plan?
 2. How do we protect our natural resources in the area, and what are good strategies, plans and policies to mitigate destruction/degradation of these areas?
 - a. Wetlands, lakes, and streams are important sources of water in this area that can be improved through stewardship initiatives and educational campaigns.
 - b. Investing in green infrastructure, protection of wetlands and riparian areas, and installation of native plants where possible.
 3. How do we get through these drought conditions?
 - a. Planting native vegetation on your property as opposed to watering your lawns
 4. Is five years too long with the changing climate to inventory and update this plan?
 5. What would this group want to see as far as native species on landscapes?
 - a. Homegrown National Park – input of native plants, they track square footage, etc.
 6. Native plants are a wonderful asset to water management – they make the soil healthier, take on more water, draw up water deep down, and rely on less water due to their deep root structures and adaptation to our local climate.

Minutes – Land Preservation Advisory Board

June 14, 2023

Page 3 of 4

- a. Water per capita use – we could measure this since it is already tracked for water bills.
 - b. Educational campaign about reducing water use
 - 7. Look at trends for water usage per capita for the entire Township.
- C. Motorized bicycle use on parks and preserves
 - a. Bicycles, motorized or not, are not allowed on any Township Preserves except for the White Trail at Red Cedar Glen.
 - b. More ‘No Bike Allowed’ signage is needed in the walkable area between the streams (the white loop is allowed) at Red Cedar Glen Preserve. There are signs already present in 3 different areas, but a new trail has been made by hikers and bikers alike, along the river. It is causing major erosion in that area.
 - c. Commissioner Stephens will bring this discussion to the Parks Commission to provide insight into how we will handle this issue in the future as motor assisted bikes become more popular.

7. REPORTS

A. STAFF REPORT: Stewardship Coordinator, Emma Campbell

- a. Update on current preservation projects & issues
 - i. Preserve rule signage: signs are now delivered and parks utility workers are adding preserve signs throughout the summer
 - ii. Lake Lansing South Preserve Mowing Policy
 - 1. Mowing from neighbors continues on the preserve
 - 2. Stewardship plans will move forward, managing invasive teasel
 - 3. 1442 Haslett Road parcel delineation is still under legal review
 - iii. Floristic Inventory for Burn Management Areas
 - 1. Emma Campbell briefly discusses goals of plan
 - a. Correct misspell in Figure 1.
 - iv. Native Transplant Inventory
 - 1. Update on Planting a Native Meridian program and plant installations for 2023
- b. Stewardship update
 - i. Phragmites status in Township
 - 1. All known stands are mapped and contracted out for treatment in late summer, EGLE permits are acquired
 - 2. Unknown stands recommended for mapping by board members:
 - a. Bus garage for Haslett Public Schools – utilize outreach program for this stand
 - b. Stand on Haslett Road in Central Meridian Wetlands
 - ii. Dogs off leash in preserves
 - 1. At Davis Foster this is still a huge issue: dog poop is all over the trail, disturbance and mortality of wildlife has been witnessed and reported by a board member, other dog owners struggle to walk their dogs on leash due to dogs off leash
 - 2. The board discusses options to potentially get the police department to take stronger action across parks and preserves for this issue

Minutes – Land Preservation Advisory Board

June 14, 2023

Page 4 of 4

- a. You can sign a complaint, take it to the attorney.
- b. Educational signage
 - i. Future educational promotion in family fun guide
- 3. Township board – go to public comment to discuss issue

B. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Kendra Grassesschi

- a. Commissioner Grassesschi: CSP is being updated, but input is still able to be added if anyone is able to look over the entire plan. Any updates for the CSP should be shared to Kendra Grassesschi.
 - i. Wetland education team has been funded 10,000 dollars for wetland education and restoration
 - 1. A portion of the funding has already been utilized for mass mailings for educational purposes (resident & contractor notice on wetland buffer protections and local ordinance)
 - 2. ongoing buffer project at Hillbrook to enhance the function of the wetland at that site
 - 3. Signage was designed and approved. Ordinance signage will go in the Township about no dumping and wetland protection
 - 4. Provide Kendra a map for where the ordinance signage will go (Lake Drive, etc.)
 - ii. Green Fair this weekend June 17th at the Farmer’s Market

C. PARK COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Mark Stephens

- a. Commissioner Stephens: Did not have a meeting this month, rescheduled for the next month.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. None.

10. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS’ COMMENTS

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

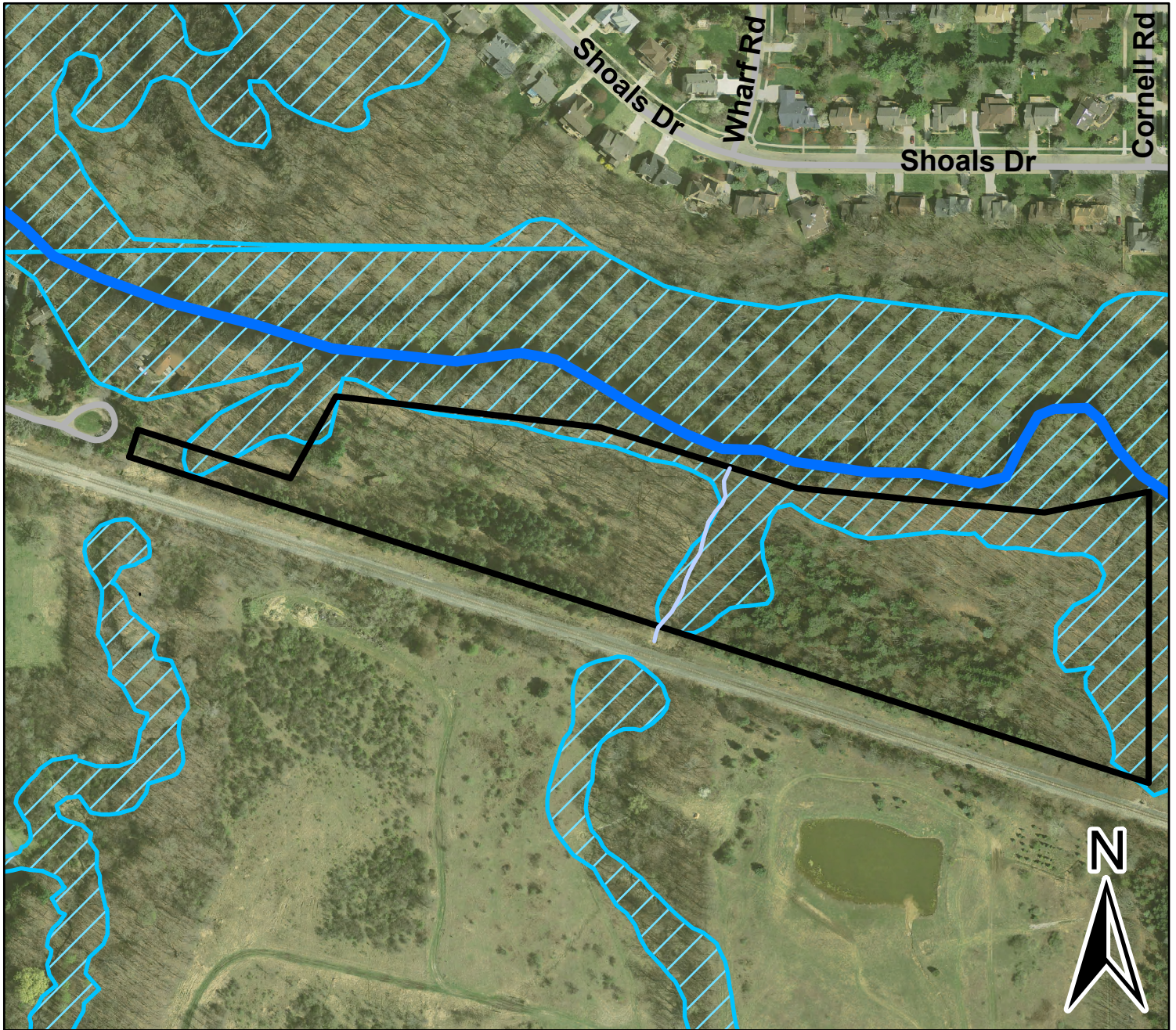
- A. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, July 12, 2023 at 6 pm at the Red Cedar Glen Preserve, 1389 Sylvan Glen Drive, Okemos, MI 48864.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Board member Grassesschi moves to adjourn the meeting. Board member Parnell seconded.

Chair Hiller adjourned the meeting at 7:54 pm.

Red Cedar Glen Land Preserve



Legend

-  Land Preserve
-  Wetland
-  Creek
-  Drain
-  River
-  Roads

0 0.0425 0.085 0.17 Miles

Location: Between east end of Sylvan Glen Road and western boundary of Legg Park Area
Area: 14.91 acres
Year Acquired: 2006
Purchase Price: \$425,000

Red Cedar Glen Preserve

Survey/Land- 14.91 acres

- Some portions are part of a 100 year floodplain
- **Wetland and Coastal Resources-Stewardship Plan**
 - **6 ecological communities:**
 - **Upland Field/Scrub (11%)**
 - ★ Upland areas that were completely logged
 - ★ Most likely was used for agriculture
 - ★ Habitat quality- low to medium
 - ★ Not authentic natural habitat remnant
 - ★ Dominant species:

Red Oak	Scotch Pine	Staghorn Sumac	Wild Red Raspberry
Wild Strawberry	Wild Carrot	Orchard Grass	Japanese Hedge Parsley

- **Floodplain Forest (2%)**
 - ★ Lowest lands abutting the Red Cedar River at North edge
 - ★ Habitat quality- high
 - ★ Authentic natural habitat remnant
 - ★ Dominant species:

Silver Maple	Green Ash	False Nettle
Ontario Aster	Virginia Wild Rye	

- **Wetland Forest/Stream (8%)**
 - ★ Along all 3 streams
 - a. East parcel edge, West parcel edge, Center of parcel
 - ★ Habitat quality- high
 - ★ Authentic natural habitat remnant
 - ★ Dominant species:

Basswood	Blue Beech	Virginia Wild Rye
Honewort	Sedges	

- **Regrowth Forest (37%)**

- ★ Non-wetland areas that were completely deforested
- ★ Habitat quality- medium
- ★ Authentic natural habitat remnant
- ★ Dominant species:

Red Oak	Black Cherry	Big-Tooth Aspen
Poison Ivy	Penn Sedge	

- **Pine Forest (30%)**

- ★ Completely deforested, replanted with conifers
- ★ Habitat quality- low
- ★ Not authentic natural habitat remnant
- ★ Dominant species:

White Pine	Red Pine	Scotch Pine
Virginia Creeper	Poison Ivy	Penn Sedge

- **Mature Upland Forest (12%)**

- ★ On the slope, well-drained portion of parcel
- ★ Some trees from around time of Settlement in early 1800s
- ★ Habitat quality- high to very high
- ★ Authentic natural habitat remnant
- ★ Dominant species:

Sugar Maple	White Ash	Red Oak	White Oak	Basswood
Bitternut Hickory	Beech	Hophornbeam	Witch Hazel	Penn Sedge

- **Invasive Species** (most found in forest/scrub and pine forest)

Garlic Mustard	Japanese Barberry	Autumn Olive	Common Privet
Japanese Honeysuckle	Amur Honeysuckle	Common Buckthorn	Multiflora Rose

- **Wildlife**

Beaver	Blue Jay	Cardinal	Black-Capped Chickadees
Common Crow	Fox Squirrel	Raccoon	Downy Woodpecker
White-Tailed Deer	Robin	Hairy Woodpecker	

- **Soil Information**

Aubbeenaubbee-Capac Sandy Loam	Boyer Sandy Loam	Brady Sandy Loam
Colwood-Brookston Loam	Capac Loam	Ceresco Fine Sandy Loam
Urban Land- Boyer-Spinks complex	Oshtemo Sandy Loam	Spinks Loamy Sand

Land History

- Previously known as Moore property and Sylvan Glen property
- Purchased from Michael and Elizabeth Moore for \$425,000 in 2006
- Property used to be a farm
 - Scotch pine
 - White pine
 - Norway spruce
 - 1 horse boarding building was on premise when purchased
- This property used to have a lot of trespassing and illegal activities taking place including:
 - Vandalism
 - Off road vehicles
 - Dumping
- Proper Ember Oaks drainage system was not installed by the subdivision developer like promised so a portion of the preserve that created:
 - Gullies as deep as 3 feet
 - Knocked down trees
 - Caused general havoc
- Lots of controversy around bike trail

Previous Management Plan

- **Wetland and Coastal Resources- Stewardship report:**
 - **Upland Field/Scrub**
 - In the next 20 years this habitat will succeed into Regrowth Forests and Pine Forests without intervention
 - If desire to protect this habitat prescribed burns and plant cutting
 - **Floodplain Forest**
 - Mature trees with weakly developed woody understory and herbaceous cover is high
 - **Wetland Forest/Stream**
 - Could be susceptible to contamination from neighboring properties
 - The limited size of these communities makes their flora vulnerable to over-browse by deer

- **Regrowth Forest**
 - Flora and wildlife habitat are medium quality
 - Was monotypic groundcover with low plant diversity
 - High predominance of native species
 - High density of trees which will cause slow maturing rate
 - ★ Recommended thinning of some trees
 - This site is not one that naturally would have fire so doing a prescribed burn may prevent site from going back to original condition
- **Pine Forest**
 - Flora and wildlife habitat is low quality
 - Return of deciduous trees represents a degree of natural recovery
 - ★ Manually thinning of native and/or non-native conifer species will speed up the process
- **Mature Upland Forest**
 - Has trees from around the time of the Settlement (early 1800s) which need to be monitored for health and public safety
 - Flora and wildlife habitat quality is very high in these areas
 - High value as this area serves as source of recovery for other parcels on the preserve
- **Deer management program**
 - will be necessary for this site
- **Land Preservation Program- Red Cedar Glen Management Plan (2009)**
 - Full eradication of invasive species as they were at the time few
 - First species given priority will be garlic mustard
 - Perform nature walks with interested members of the community
 - Clear and maintain pathways as necessary
 - Inventory special plants and animal populations
- **Invasive Species Assessment**

Common Burdock	(C3)
Japanese Barberry	(D2) & (E3)
Wild Carrot	(A)
Autumn Olive	(A1) (A3) (C2) (D2) (D3) (E1) (E3) & (E4)
Common Privet	(A1) (D3) (E4)
Amur Honeysuckle	(A1) (C1) (C3) (D2) (E1)

Tatarian Honeysuckle	(A1) (D1) (D3) (E1) (E3) (E4) (F1)
Reed Canary Grass	(C1)
Multiflora Rose	(A1) (C2) (C3) (D2) (D3) (E1) (E3) (E4)
Japanese Hedge Parsley	(A)

Previous Short and Long-Term Tasks

Short Term:

- Full eradication of invasive species as they were at the time few and far between
 - First species given priority will be garlic mustard
- Perform nature walks with interested members of the community
- Clear and maintain pathways as necessary
- Inventory special plants and animal populations
- Map areas of invasive species perform semi-annual site assessments
- Continue to monitor the 3 intermittent streams
- Install signs along boundary of parcel to indicate township ownership and discourage encroachment
- Prohibit recreational hunting and install “No Hunting” signs along boundary

Long Term:

- Prepare an ecological management plan
- Periodically inspect site for invasive species assessment and other concerns
- Begin implementing ecological management plan
- Install boardwalk across portions of the site that are susceptible to erosion for the purpose of preventing additional degradation
- Evaluate necessity of stream bank stabilization measures for the three intermittent streams
- Assess vegetation to determine if prescribed burning or selective tree removal of non-native/aggressive species should be performed for the purpose of restoring circa 1800s vegetation
- Continue monitoring invasive species sites
- Remove old fencing
- Structures- fix it; do not remove but hold gate open

Current Management Plans

- None Found