



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Township Service Center  
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court | Haslett, MI  
Wednesday, April 12, 2023, 6 PM

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

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

**Vice Chair Thomas calls to the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.**

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. NONE.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

A. April 12, 2023

Commissioner Grassesschi would like to amend the April 12, 2023 agenda and table Item 6A until the next meeting.

**Commissioner Grassesschi moved to approve the April 12, 2023 Agenda and place on file as amended. Board member Parnell seconded.**

**Voice vote: unanimous.**

4. APPROVE MINUTES

A. March 8, 2023

**Board member Parnell makes a motion to place the March 8, 2023 minutes on file. Board member Fay seconded.**

**Voice vote: Unanimous.**

5. COMMUNICATIONS

A. Towns Hall Building Renovations

- a. Town Hall is currently being renovated for the summer of 2023, which will cause board meetings to be held at a different location than the Township Service Center. Location change will be updated at the next meeting.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Overview of Green Burial letter of support (Tabled until more information is gathered)

B. May meeting reschedule date

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- a. 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, or 31<sup>st</sup>
- b. It was decided to move the May meeting to the 31<sup>st</sup> at 6 pm located at the Township Service Center
- c. Emma Campbell will notify the appropriate staff of this change
- C. Meeting protocol refresher
  - a. Public comment is allowed once at the beginning of each meeting as well as at the end of each meeting
  - b. We can give 3-5 minutes for each public comment. If we decide to enforce this time limit, we must begin to enforce it for each meeting from this point forward.
  - c. The chair is responsible for enforcing;
    - i. Time limits for public comment
    - ii. Bringing conversations and issues back when they stray off topic. Phrases to enforce this;
      - 1. “Point of order, I believe the discussion has wandered from topic.”
      - 2. “I would like to make a motion so we can proceed with this project.”
    - iii. Calling on board members when they raise their hands for discussion, questions, and/or input on agenda items
  - d. The board discusses issues in the past with too much engagement with public during public comment, which lengthens this portion of the meeting
    - i. Board members may ask public questions during the agenda item being discussed
  - e. The board takes a straw vote to issue a 3 minute time limit to all public comments. This will be the protocol moving forward at all future Land Preservation Advisory Board meetings
    - i. Presentations on the agenda do not have a time limit and may allow for more discussion on the topic at hand
    - ii. During Action Items the board is able to call on public, experts, and staff to ask questions about the issue, but it is not a discussion back and forth
- D. 730 Knightsford Lane Drainage Issue Recap
  - a. Emma Campbell introduces the issue and goes over the timeline included in the packet
  - b. Board members comments:
    - i. There is a concern with surface water runoff into the ground water at the preserve in that location. Surface water coming from neighborhoods have a higher chance of containing pesticide and fertilizer runoff
    - ii. Where is the water coming from?
      - 1. It is converging from all sides, including the preserve and the adjacent properties. The Schultz property is the lowest point in that area.
    - iii. There is a concern with the precedent this will set for all preserves in the Township with adjacent neighbors experiencing flooding issues due to outdated permitting and building of infrastructure.
    - iv. More information is expected to be presented at the May meeting from the homeowners. Engineers installed a well monitor to gather information on the ground water levels per Land Preservation Board approval.

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### 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. Wetland education signage has been designed and is being looked over by the Environmental Commission for Wetland Education funding allocation
    1. Signs include educational/interpretive information about wetland ecology and conservation, as well as ordinance signage for wetland buffer protection
  - iii. 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
- b. Stewardship work for Spring 2023
  - i. Prescribed burns at Red Cedar Glen Preserve and Davis Foster were both successful and met management goals
  - ii. Invasive work is focused on herbaceous invasive species located in sensitive areas
    1. Earth Day events will occur at Harris Nature Center, including removing invasive plants and sowing native seeds from the Planting a Native Meridian program
  - iii. Native plant transplants will be coming at the end of May for planting at preserves. Species include:
    1. Solidago speciose (showy goldenrod)
    2. Solidago juncea (early goldenrod)
    3. Symphyotrichum laeve (smooth blue aster)
    4. Erigeron pulchellus (Robin's plantain)
    5. Zizia aurea (golden alexander)
    6. Prunus Americana (wild plum)
    7. Asclepias tuberosa (butterfly weed)

#### B. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Kendra Grassesschi

- a. Commissioner Grassesschi is pleased to report that fellow board Vice Chair, resident, and MCC volunteer, Steve Thomas, has been awarded the Stewardship Award from the Environmental Commission. He will be honored at the May meeting
- b. Recycle-a-Rama Township recycling event is happening on April 22<sup>nd</sup> for residents
- c. Work continues on the Climate Sustainability Plan and fellow board members are urged to add their input. Board member Yu Man Lee and Commissioner Grassesschi have been working together to develop the water quality section of the plan. An updated draft of the plan will be sent out.

#### C. PARK COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Mark Stephens

- A. None, Commissioner Stephens absent.

### 9. PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. None.

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10. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

a. Reevaluate land acquisition protocol. What would we want to look for in potential future acquisitions if they are brought the board? We currently have met the goals of land acquisition in the Land Preservation Program, so what are the goals moving forward?

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, May 31, 2023 at 6 pm at the Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett 48840. **Update as of 6/8/2023; all summer meetings will be held at the Central Park pavilion located at 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos 48864.**

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

**Vice Chair Thomas adjourned the meeting at 7:26 pm.**