



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Township Service Center
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court | Haslett, MI
Wednesday, November 8, 2023, 6 PM

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

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

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

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

A. November 8, 2023

Board Member Parnell moved to approve the November 8, 2023 Agenda to place on file. Board Member Fay seconded.

Voice vote: unanimous.

4. APPROVE MINUTES

A. October 11, 2023

Board Member Lee makes a motion to amend the October 11, 2023 minutes to reflect Commissioner Stephens as absent. Board member Fay seconded.

Board member Fay makes a motion to place the October 11, 2023 minutes on file as amended. Wisinski seconded.

Voice vote: Unanimous.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

A. None.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Stewardship Goals for 2024 – Emma do not forget to talk about Floristic surveys, riparian area protections, and leaf litter initiative
 - a. Discussion of the attached 2024 Stewardship Goals and input from board members.
 - i. Board members comments:

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- ii. Prescribed burn program: Have staff check to see if we are able to devote any preservation funds to burns on Township parkland (i.e. Legg Park).
 - 1. Stewardship easements could be an alternative option to establish funds for work in these areas.
 - 2. Severe boundaries need to be set in order to make sure funds are only used in those designated areas.
 - 3. Shared funds between parks and land preservation – both would have to allocate funds toward prescribed burns, or stewardship in parks.
 - iii. Add leaf litter initiative to 2024 goals for both staff and public
 - 1. Come up with a proposal for grounds staff with maps of areas where this is currently an issue; Riverside Cemetery.
 - 2. This initiative works well with the ‘No Dumping’ ordinance.
 - a. Add educational campaigns and ‘no dumping’ signs to goals list.
 - iv. Add individualized management plans for each preserve to 2024 goals
 - 1. Start with priority sites first that receive the most stewardship efforts. This will also include parks that are of high ecological quality and currently stewardship sites (i.e. Legg Park).
 - a. Potentially involve students from Michigan State University; pre-settlement background history for preserves as a foundation for management plans.
 - B. Red Cedar River Pledge; reducing the amount of electric scooters in the Red Cedar River/
Becoming a good community partner to support this initiative.
 - A. Staff is participating in the community wide Red Cedar River cleanup with Michigan Waterways Stewards, Delta Phi Sigma, and Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternities, this Saturday on November 11 at 10 am.
 - B. Staff will continue to work with Michigan Waterways Stewards on river cleanups and initiatives to improve riparian health around the Red Cedar River.
7. REPORTS
- A. STAFF REPORT: Stewardship Coordinator, Emma Campbell
 - a. Update on current preservation projects & issues
 - i. Cornell-Sweetwood Update
 - 1. Purchase agreement is finalized. Final documentation and negotiation is happening between lawyers and real estate agents before the closing.
 - ii. Preserve rule signage: Signage is set to go up in December when work slows down for the parks maintenance crews.
 - 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
 - iv. Lake Lansing North Burn Update
 - 1. The burn was successful and was hot enough to char logs and burn

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most of the leaf litter. About 80% was successfully burned.

b. Staff leaving in December:

- i. LuAnn Maisner (Parks and Recreation Director) and Rebecca Fisher (Assistant Stewardship Coordinator) are leaving at the end of December, 2023. We will miss them both dearly, and we thank them for their hard work at the Township.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Kendra Grassesschi

- a. Commissioner Grassesschi – the last two meetings were cancelled. Please provide any last comments and/or input for the Climate Sustainability Plan. Budget is being finalized for the Green Grant funds. This program has been very successful and is recommended by staff to residents who wish to pursue sustainable initiatives in their community.

C. PARK COMMISSION REPORT: Board Member, Mark Stephens

- a. Commissioner Stephens is absent.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. None.

10. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

- A. Vice Chair Steve Thomas will receive the Volunteer of the Year Award at the November 9, 2023 Township Board meeting.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, January 10, 2023 at 6 pm at the Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

Chair Hiller adjourned the meeting at 7:57 pm.