



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
Land Preservation Advisory Board
Wednesday, April 15, 2015
Meridian Service Center
7 pm (new time)

AGENDA

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Approve Agenda
3. Public Remarks
4. Approve Minutes
5. Communications
6. Presentations
 - a.
7. Old Business
 - a.
8. New Business
 - a. Appointment of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson
 - a. Dave Caszatt – Towar Woods Land Preserve Project
9. Land Management Coordinator Report
10. Other
11. Public Comment
12. Closed Session
13. Adjournment

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2014
6 PM – MERIDIAN SERVICE CENTER

Members Present: Julie Brixie, Roland Harmes, Frank Hatfield, James Kielbaso, Jon Mayes, Robert Rusch, Margo Smith, Mark Stephens

Members Absent: None

Staff: Land and Management Coordinator Jane Greenway; Administrative Assistant II Robin Faust

Others: Bill McConnell

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Kielbaso called the meeting to order at 6 pm

2. Approve Agenda

Under item #8 New Business, add new item #b, 2015 Meeting Calendar Resolution

BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE MOVED, BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MEETING AGENDA AS AMENDED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

3. Public Remarks

None

4. Approve Minutes

Page 6, under item #9b:

Third bullet, change "trail" to "travel"

Fourth bullet shall state: "Board Member Rusch spoke about a canoe and kayak company in Williamston wanting to develop a jump off point on the Grand River at the Harris Nature Center."

BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE MOVED, BOARD MEMBER RUSCH SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 10, 2014 MINUTES AS AMENDED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

5. Communications

- a. From: Ben Holland; RE: thank you for funding assistance with his eagle scout project

- b. From: Rick Loftus, To: Dave Caszatt; thank you for organizing the Towar Woods cleanup and planting events
- c. From: Assistant Park Naturalist Sanchez; To: Rick Loftus; RE: thank you for correspondence on Northwest Land Preserve and interpretative signage for the site
- d. From: Bruce Little; RE: Deer Hunt and poaching concerns
- e. From: Carla Clos, RE: Sylvan Glen Road drain structure installation
- f. From: Camala Kinder; RE: hunting concerns on Raby Road
- g. From: Carla Clos; Red Cedar Glen planting
- h. To: Camala Kinder; RE: addressing her concerns on the deer management program
- i. From: Dave Caszatt; RE: report on Towar Woods clean up and invitation to Halloween event
- j. Township Focus Magazine, November 2014 issue; "Oh Deer! Townships, hunting and deer management
- k. To: Jule Stafford, Michigan Department of Natural Resources Grants Management; RE: Meridian will not be proceeding with acquisition grant for Paul George property on Green Road
- l. From: Steve Brunner, RE: Support permanent bicycle access through Red Cedar Glen
- m. From: Layne Cameron, RE: Support permanent bicycle access through Red Cedar Glen

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE SECONDED, TO ACCEPT AND PLACE THE ITEMS OF COMMUNICATION ON FILE. Voice vote.
Motion passed.

6. Presentations

None

7. Old Business

a. Land Preserve Names

Coordinator Greenway suggested the Board may want to review the names assigned to the land preserves. Some of the current names do not have a meaning or make it easy to locate. One such change could be the Northwest Land Preserve to Towar Woods. She suggests the Board look at one or two preserves at a time, investigate their location, see what the neighbors call the preserve, investigate if the preserve has a significant element, etc. If the Board is agreeable, she will prepare a list of preserves that do not have a naming rights clause in the purchase agreement. The preserve names can be added utilizing a small plaque on the existing signs.

b. Land Preserves Rezoning

Board Member Brixie reported she attended the Planning Commission meeting on August 13, 2014 and reviewed the information provided by Parks and Land and Management Coordinator Greenway outlining the reasons why the Land Preservation Advisory Board is requesting that the Planning Commission not proceed with their proposed rezoning of the land preserves. After this discussion, the Planning Commission withdrew the request for rezoning the land preserves and will not proceed further with it in the future.

8. New Business
a. Red Cedar Glen – Permanent Bicycle Access

Parks and Land Management Coordinator Greenway reported it has been one year since the Board passed a motion to allow bicycle access in the Red Cedar Glen.

She reported:

- A review of the site was conducted by herself and Assistant Park Naturalist Sanchez and no negative impacts were noted
- The Township has not received any complaints relative to bicycles in the preserve
- Signage has been installed and appears to be working, some needs to be tweaked
- Suggesting one of the foot trails along the river be re-routed
- Conducted a meandering survey of invasive species that need attention
- Recent construction of a split rail fence by an eagle scout candidate, Ben Holland, to separate the preserve from private property

BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE MOVED, BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS SECONDED, THAT THE LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD PERMANENTLY ALLOW BICYCLES ON THE MAIN TRAIL, ONLY, OF THE RED CEDAR GLEN PRESERVE. THE ACTIVITY OF BICYCLING WILL CONTINUE TO BE CONTROLLED THROUGH SIGNS ALONG THE MAIN TRAIL TO PREVENT DAMAGE TO THE PRSERVE FROM BICYCLES. THE LAND PRESERCE WILL BE MONITORED AT LEAST TWICE PER YEAR TO ASSESS IMPACTS.

Discussion:

- who will monitor (Coordinator Greenway replied primarily staff but also the board members)
- Board Member Hatfield offered a friendly amendment to change the word "PERMANENTLY" in the motion to "CONTINUE TO". The friendly amendment was accepted by maker and supporter of the motion.
- When asked if there is likely to be a problem between hikers and bikers on the trails, Staff replied no, trails are smooth and wide enough. Board Member Hatfield replied there are some issues where the trail connects into and going through Legg Park
- When asked about the liability, Staff replied that the site is covered through the Township and riding a bicycle is at the owners risk
- Board Member Hatfield reported the Sylvan Glen Neighborhood Association met last evening and they have not seen any damage, there has been no more or less increase in bicycle traffic, there has been some access before and after dark and dogs off leash and although there is signage, it is not enforced.
- Bill McConnell, 4676 Manitou, Okemos, stated he lives in Tacoma Hills adjacent to the Sander Farm Natural Area and he can now access off-road trails to the pump track in Eastgate Park. He has used the linkage trail numerous times and it is wide enough for both bikers and hikers. He has not come across or observed any negative impacts. He believes the Okemos High School cross country school team is using the trail connections.

Voice vote on the Motion including the Friendly Amendment. Motion passed unanimously.

b. 2015 Meeting Calendar Resolution

The following resolution was offered by Board Member Brixie and supported by Board Member Hatfield.

WHEREAS, the Land Preservation Advisory Board desires to announce the time, date, and place of all meetings of the Land Preservation Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, the Land Preservation Advisory Board deems the 2015 regular meeting schedule sufficient to uphold the Township Board's Policies and Procedures, and advancement toward the Board's Global Ends; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Land Preservation Advisory Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, that the Land Preservation Advisory Board adopts its regular 2015 meeting schedule as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
January 14	Service Center	6 p.m.
February 11	Service Center	6 p.m.
March 11	Service Center	6 p.m.
April 8	Service Center	6 p.m.
May 13	Service Center	6 p.m.
June 10	Service Center	6 p.m.
July 8	Service Center	6 p.m.
August 12	Service Center	6 p.m.
September 9	Service Center	6 p.m.
October 14	Service Center	6 p.m.
November 18*	Service Center	6 p.m.
December 9	Service Center	6 p.m.

1. The Land Preservation Advisory Board has set a schedule to meet on the second Wednesday of the month; except November, which is the third Wednesday, due to Township Offices being closed in observance of Veteran's Day.
2. Each of the above meetings shall be held at the specified time in the lunch room of the Meridian Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Ct., Haslett, Michigan, (517) 853-4000.
3. Special meetings of the Land Preservation Advisory Board may be called pursuant to the statute thereto appertaining.
4. Regular meetings may be canceled, recessed or postponed by members of the Land Preservation Advisory Board pursuant to the statute thereto appertaining.
5. A summary of this resolution stating date, place, and time shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Township, and a copy of this resolution shall be posted in the Meridian Municipal Building.

ADOPTED:

YEAS: Mark Stephens, Roland Harmes, Frank Hatfield, Julie Brixie, Robert Rusch, Margo Smith, Jon Mayes, James Kielbaso

NAYS: None

Resolution passed.

9. Land Management Coordinator Report

a. Deer Management Update

- Added Ingham County Farm to the program (100 acres) on Dobie road behind Campus Hills Apartments
- As of today, 83 deer have been harvested
- Board Member Brixie gave a great interview on Comcast
- Sumbal Preserve will not be added because parents are parking in Ferguson Park and walking to the school to collect their children daily

b. Davis/Foster Land Preserve

- Evergreens planted by Haslett schools are doing well
- Staff walked the site, two of the hunters have had some damage to their stands and a trail cam is up to catch violators

c. Red Cedar Glen

- Signs have been installed and the new trees look great, but there is evidence of deer damage ("buck rubs")
- Site restoration is proceeding as planned
- Request to add sign where the "v" is for foot traffic

d. Mary Helmbrecht Butterfly Garden

- 130 school children from Haslett planted 1,200 native plants near the Historical Village pond, during the planting, the children learned journaling, tree math, fishing and much more
- Board Member Stephens reported most of the mulch was spread but more still needs to be spread around the plantings and asked for volunteers; once the plants are established, little future maintenance will be needed
- Spent \$7,000 on this project to date; the school will be purchasing an additional \$1,200 for the spring planting and will utilize Grand Learning Network grant funds
- Assistant Park Naturalist Sanchez is design the signage; will be getting the family's input and do the dedication in the spring.

e. Northwest Land Preserve

- Assistant Park Naturalist Sanchez prepared an update on the restoration efforts for an article in the upcoming Family Fun Guide

f. 2014 invasive treatment calendar and 2015 goals

- The invasive treatment calendar is included in the meeting packet and the 2015 goals will be presented at the December meeting

g. Land Preserve Signs

- Work orders have been placed to install six signs: Northwest Land Preserve; Central Meridian Wetlands (two signs); Central Meridian Uplands; Forest Grove and Northridge

h. Fisheries and Wildlife Services Grant

- Their investment was mowing and treating the area (and was paid for utilizing federal grant funding of \$1000) but area may need to be re-treated in the spring before planting
- Board Member Mayes reported the ground had a thick mat of thatch. Board Member Stephens stated the area may need to be burned to avoid seed regeneration before introducing new plantings

10. Other

Board Member Harmes asked about designated Cornell Road as a natural beauty road to avoid tree removal by the County. Board Member Brixie reported the Township Board submitted a requested for a permanent variance from the Road Department to protect the white oak and the request is going through the channels for approval. She attended a County Commission meeting and there is a new process for such requests and believes the Township's request is favorable. There is also another issue which is allowing for tree planting in right-of-ways on business roads. This would be a policy change or statement, will need review with respect to liability but this request also appears to be favorable.

Board Member Harmes asked about the liability of hunting from tree stands especially for the hunters who may fall. Coordinator Greenway reported the hunters do sign a liability release, have attended and received certification from the Demmer Center and hunters are encouraged to use certified tree hunting stands. Our legal counsel has reviewed all of the documents that are signed by the volunteer hunters.

11. Public Comment

None

12. Closed Session

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER SMITH SECONDED, TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSSION LAND ACQUISITION MATTERS.

Roll Call:

YEAS: Jon Mayes, Margo Smith, Robert Rusch, Julie Brixie, Frank Hatfield, Roland Harmes, Mark Stephens, James Kielbaso

NAYS: None

The Board entered into closed session at 7:06 pm.

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER SMITH SECONDED, TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION.

Roll Call:

YEAS: Mark Stephens, Roland Harmes, Frank Hatfield, Julie Brixie, Robert Rusch, Margo Smith, Jon Mayes, James Kielbaso

NAYS: None

The Board returned to open session at 8:17 pm

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE SECONDED, TO DIRECT STAFF TO PROCEED AS DISCUSSED DURING THE CLOSED SESSION. Voice vote. Motion passed.

13. Adjournment

BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE MOVED, BOARD MEMBER MAYES SECONDED, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Ensuring Continuity of LPAB Stewardship – Feb. 10, 2015

Leslie Kuhn – Coordinator, Mid-Michigan Stewardship (KuhnL@msu.edu)

- There have been many great accomplishments with Nick Sanchez's stewardship work in Meridian Township - Rx burns, NW preserve, leading volunteer workdays – and in Ingham County Parks – North Park, control of Phragmites & Japanese knotweed regionally, woody invasives in North Park, and establishment of rain garden, shoreline garden, deer-resistant garden, and monitoring
- There are 17 Meridian land preserves totalling 740 acres. Stewardship plans are in place for most of the preserves, but stewardship (particularly, invasive species removal and protection of the highest quality native species) has not been carried out on most of the preserves, because of the limited stewardship personnel field time to lead these efforts and volunteer groups. Now that Nick is leaving, we have no one to support these efforts.
- These are opportunities! There are leaders in our Mid-Michigan Stewardship Initiative, which has been funded by LPAB for wetland invasive species control and other on-the-ground projects like the deer-resistant garden, who would be willing to help:
 - Help prioritize and identify a few high-impact projects on a few Land Preserves to spread the needed stewardship activities to more of the land preserves
 - Lead educational guided tours of this handful of preserves to get to know their high points and threats. Meet during evening meeting time for LPAB or a weekend time when members of the public could also join us to see these preserves
 - With Dave Caszatt, help recruit, train, and set goals with a new stewardship intern to focus on field work (recognizing that a second person with different skills is also needed part-time, seasonally, to manage the deer hunt)
 - The intern/stewardship tech would work as close to full time in the summer as possible, split between NW preserve with Dave Caszatt and other preserves with Leslie Kuhn, Jim Hewitt, Laurie Kaufman, and colleagues from Mid-Mich Stewardship
 - Continue part-time into the school year if the intern works well and shows initiative
- Some possible focus areas in addition to the NW Preserve:
 - Red Cedar Glen/Sylvan Glen (15 acres)
 - Floodplain forest, stream habitat and mature upland forest were deemed high quality in 2006
 - Invasive species observed at that point, 9 years ago:
 - ALLIARIA PETIOLATA (garlic mustard)
 - BERBERIS THUNBERGII (barberry)
 - ELAEAGNUS UMBELLATA (autumn olive)
 - LIGUSTRUM VULGARE (privet)
 - LONICERA JAPONICA (Japanese honeysuckle)
 - LONICERA MAACKII (Amur honeysuckle)
 - RHAMNUS CATHARTICA (common buckthorn)
 - ROSA MULTIFLORA (multiflora rose)
 - TORILIS JAPONICA (Japanese hedgeparsley)
 - VERBASCUM THAPSUS (mullein)





- Davis/Foster Preserve (109 acres):
 - Focus on mixed scrub-shrub and emergent wetland habitats with native silky dogwood (*Cornus amomum*), common elder (*Sambucus canadensis*), willows (*Salix spp.*), gray dogwood (*Cornus foemina*), touch-me-not (*Impatiens capensis*), and tussock sedge (probably *Carex stricta*).
 - Also focus on its upland forest. This community is the highest quality upland type observed on the site. Weed species are much less abundant than in upland communities elsewhere on the property. The dominant native plant species in the upland forest type include black cherry, black oak, white oak (*Quercus alba*), gray dogwood, red raspberry, hazel (*Corylus americana*), violet (*Viola sp.*), and white avens.
 - Invasive species to map and selectively target: honeysuckle, autumn olive (*Eleagnus umbellata*), glossy buckthorn (*Rhamnus frangula*), and common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), reed canarygrass (*Phalaris arundinacea*), Canada thistle, and *Phragmites* (common reed)
- Rysberg Preserve (60 acres):
 - Mature upland forest on the higher elevation and hillside areas. Dominant native species are black oak (*Quercus velutina*), red oak, (*Quercus rubra*), hop hornbeam (*Ostrya virginiana*), black cherry (*Prunus serotina*), pignut hickory (*Carya glabra*), bitternut hickory (*Carya cordiformis*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), american beech (*Fagus grandifolia*), sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), and basswood (*Tilia americana*). The overall habitat quality is high and represents authentic natural habitat remnant.
 - Invasive species to map and control: garlic mustard, cut-leaved teasel, Japanese barberry, privet, Amur honeysuckle, moneywort, common buckthorn, multiflora rose, and periwinkle
- Additional goals are to engage neighbors and local schools annually in this work as well as develop well-defined goals for the stewardship tech to achieve at each site, and develop educational signs about the habitat and invasive species (if LPAB would like this)
- Why stewardship is important:
 - To keep these valuable acquisitions and their value as wildlife habitat from being progressively consumed by aggressive weeds and woody invasive species
 - To engage community members in appreciating and caring for the land preserves
 - To build our knowledge of Meridian Township natural areas and how to maintain them efficiently
- Finances related to hiring a stewardship intern/technician or two:
 - At \$12/hour, 30 hours per week for 12 summer weeks, this would total: \$4320/intern. This paid effort would be matched by Mid-Michigan Stewardship Initiative's significant volunteer commitment to help recruit and train this individual, define goals, and oversee progress. Two interns could be better than one, motivationally, and in terms of what can be accomplished for the land preserves.
 - Ideally, the same person (likely an MSU Fisheries & Wildlife, CARRS (Community, Agriculture, Recreation, and Resource Studies), Plant Biology, Forestry major with interest/skills relating to natural area management), will continue during the school year 10-20 hrs/week and maintain continuity on these projects. The need is truly ongoing with 17 preserves.
 - There is ~\$2.8M in available funds that can be spent flexibly for this and other needs in the Land Preservation budget (from meeting with Jane Greenway)

**Funding Request
2/2015
2015 Operations at the Northwest Land Preserve
Towar Community Volunteers**

- **Clearing Common Buckthorn Thickets for Reforestation**

Maximum of 3 acres @ \$850 / acre

\$850/acre (lowest bid from 2013)

Estimated Need \$3500

- **Conifer Planting Expansion**

1,000 additional trees

(2-1) White Spruce transplants @ \$.475 / tree

(500 to be planted over two weekends in April, same in October)

Estimated Need \$500

Total Funding Request \$4000

2014-15 Land Preservation - Stewardship Update

Northwest Land Preserve

Nick Sanchez / Dave Caszatt

Main focus:

- Competitor control in conifer and deer exclosure/hardwood planting
- Invasive shrub removal throughout former walnut hills property (surrounding planting area)
- Release cuts to remove invasive shrubs around residual hardwood saplings

Conifer Mortality

Conifer mortality has occurred in small pockets throughout the October 2013 planting area. Mortality is attributed to poor planting conditions, volunteer labor, 80 degree days in mid-October, and a severe winter and over-browsing. Heavy deer browsing is evident on white pines where canopy is present along the edges of the cleared area/planting. In some cases, they are starting to eat the needles off of Red Pine, which is considered a "starvation food". **We highly recommend that the township continue to thin the deer herd within the preserve to reduce pressure on this planting.** To supplement mortality in the original planting we would like to add white spruce, which is also considered starvation food.

Residual Hardwoods

Many oaks, hickories and other favorable regeneration were spared in the land clearing operation for the planting, much to the credit of our volunteers who pre-marked these trees so that the equipment operator could avoid them. We have since gone back through and performed release cuts around these hardwoods allowing them space and sunlight to continue to grow uninhibited by encroaching invasive plant species.

Continued Monitoring and Competitor Control

Newly planted seedlings do not compete well with resprouting vegetation without intervention. Energy reserves of the resprouting vegetation must be exhausted while the planted trees receive the adequate light resources for speedy growth. Volunteers and staff are able to accomplish this by weed whipping around newly planted trees, twice during the growing season (late spring and mid-summer). Generally speaking, the competition is comprised of grasses and agricultural weeds. Once a tree has reached a satisfactory height above the weeds, significantly less maintenance will be needed. Herbicides are not recommended for competitor suppression at this stage due to the risk of damaging the delicate buds of conifer seedlings. On an interesting note; while the deer herd may be having an impact on the white pine planting under canopy, they are also impacting the resprouting vegetation giving the pines in the open grown area a slight competitive advantage.

2014 Summer Favorable Growing Conditions

The excellent growing conditions throughout the summer likely played a tremendous role in the bounce back of many conifer seedlings we were almost sure were not going to make it. In most cases the white pines added a foot of growth or more, the red pines slightly less as expected (slower growth rate). While planting was a difficult task, selecting seedlings with well-developed root systems (2-2) seems to have been a favorable decision. The seedlings have the root system capacity to put on growth when conditions are favorable and will be "out of the woods" sooner as far as intensive weedy competitor control goes.

Invasive Species Removal Continues

Through the fall, volunteers worked to treat common buckthorn and honeysuckle sp. through basal bark herbicide applications, expanding the area relatively cleared of invasive shrubs to 7-8 acres.

5,000 ft² Hardwood Exclosure

The early spring exclosure construction and hardwood planting was an overall success. High mortality was observed in the American beech, perhaps due to poor growing stock or improper lifting procedure or storage prior to shipment. The downy serviceberry, sugar maple, tulip poplar, and common elderberry are thriving. All trees and shrubs were mulched, flagged, and weed whipped around monthly during the growing season to control competition. No damage or breach of the exclosure has occurred.

2015

Camping / Trash Clean-up:

While we plan to solicit volunteers for annual Earth Day clean-up in the Northwest Preserve, additionally, we would like to request staff support for the removal of furniture, trash, broken glass (beer bottles), fire pits and shelters. It is evident that this is not residual trash left from pre-land preserve days; many of these "camps" were not present during the 2014 spring clean-up and have been added over the summer months.

Tree Planting:

Recognizing that recolonization by invasive shrubs is likely if the growing space is not quickly occupied, we would like to expand the conifer planting by adding white spruce under the former mature buckthorn canopy to the North and replace pine mortality where it has occurred. White spruce is considered a starvation food for white tailed deer. Given the fairly shaded conditions and the well-drained deep organic layer observed in the northern end of the property, a native spruce would likely thrive in those conditions. While occupying growing space, the white spruce will also provide a seed crop and add dense cover for wildlife. Similar to the red pine planted, it is unlikely that white spruce will regenerate on the site as it is out of its natural range. More or less act as a species that will 'reserve the site' until major invasive species are no longer providing a seed source to the area and native trees and shrubs are established.

Planting guides recommend planting 400-500 trees per acre. As a reference, 8"-12" 2-1 White Spruce runs \$.475/tree, 1000 trees would come to \$475.

Volunteer groups will be solicited for the planting. Ideally it would occur over two weekends in April, and October, planting 500 in each month.

Clearing Common Buckthorn for Reforestation

Citing the overall success of the previous clearing and planting, we would like to expand the area cleared to an additional 3 acres. \$850.00/acre was the low bid on the 2013 clearing operation.

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP

TO: Land Preservation Advisory Board

FROM: Jane Greenway
Parks and Land Management Coordinator

DATE: April 10, 2015

RE: Procedure to Elect Officers

Chair opens the floor for nominations for **Chair**.

COMMISSIONER _____ MOVED, TO NOMINATE _____ AS CHAIR.
COMMISSIONER _____ SECONDED.

Commissioner _____ accepted the nomination.

Hearing no other nominations, Chair closed the floor to nominations for Chair.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES:
NAYS:

Chair opens the floor for nomination for **Vice Chair**.

COMMISSIONER _____ MOVED, TO NOMINATE _____ AS VICE CHAIR.
COMMISSIONER _____ SECONDED.

Commissioner _____ accepted the nomination.

Hearing no other nominations, Chair closed the floor to nomination for Vice Chair.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES:
NAYS:

MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP

TO: Land Preservation Advisory Board

FROM: Jane Greenway
Jane Greenway
Land Management Coordinator

DATE: April 10, 2015

RE: Funding for Hardwood Plantings & Volunteer Pizza Party
Northwest Preserve Site Restoration Project

Former LPAB member, David Caszatt, and other neighborhood volunteers have been working for nearly ten years to restore the Northwest Land Preserve. In May of 2015, volunteers and township staff will supplement the area with hardwood plantings. We are still in the process of obtaining bids for the trees, but would like to request an expenditure of up to \$1,000 to be used to purchase trees for the restored area. As a way of saying "thanks" to the volunteers, I would like to recommend that the Land Preservation Advisory Board also provide funding for a small pizza party at Buddies in East Lansing. The LPAB has already approved expenditures of up to \$10,000 for the project, and so far it is nearly \$2,000 under budget. The proposed pizza money will come out of the original \$10,000 fund for restoration.

David Caszatt will attend the April 15, 2015 meeting and will provide more information relative to the tree planting project.

The following draft motion is proposed:

MOVE that the Land Preservation Advisory Board approve the expenditure of up to \$1000.00 of maintenance funds for the purpose of purchasing hardwood trees, tree protection from deer, and also to provide pizza for volunteers working on the site restoration project in the Northwest Land Preserve on October 13, 2013.