

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2015
7 PM – MERIDIAN SERVICE CENTER

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

Members Absent: Robert Rusch

Staff: Land and Management Coordinator Jane Greenway

Others: Dave Caszatt

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Kielbaso called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

2. Approve Agenda

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

3. Public Remarks

None

4. Approve Minutes

- a. November 12, 2014 – page 1, item #4, change “Grand River” to “Red Cedar River at the Harris Nature Center”
- b. February 11, 2015 – page 1, change header date to February 11, 2015; under Members Present, remove, Margo Smith and add Roland Harmes; under Members Absent, remove Roland Harmes and add Margo Smith

BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE MOVED, BOARD MEMBER SMITH SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 12, 2014 MEETING MINUTES AND THE FEBRUARY 11, 2015 DISCUSSION NOTES AS CORRECTED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

5. Communications

- a. From: Leslie Kuhn, Coordinator, Mid-Michigan Stewardship, RE: Ensuring Continuity of LPAB Stewardship, February 10, 2015
- b. Meridian Township Earth Week Community Clean Up, Saturday, April 25 from 9 am – 12 noon, meeting at Central Park Pavilion

Hearing no objection, Chair Kielbaso accepted the items of communication for filing.

6. Presentations

None

7. Old Business

None

8. New Business

a. Appointment of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson

Chair Kielbaso opened the floor for nominations for **Chair**.

BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE NOMINATED JON MAYES AS CHAIR. BOARD MEMBER HATFIELD SECONDED THE NOMINATION.

Board Member Mayes declined and suggested Jim Kielbaso continue as chair and he would continue as Vice Chair.

BOARD MEMBER SMITH NOMINATED FRANK HATFIELD AS CHAIR. Board Member Hatfield declined.

BOARD MEMBER MAYES NOMINATED JIM KIELBASO AS CHAIR. BOARD MEMBER HATFIELD SECONDED THE NOMINATION.

Jim Kielbaso accepted the nomination.

Roll Call:

AYES: Jon Mayes, Frank Hatfield, Margo Smith, Roland Harmes, Julie Brixie, Mark Stephens, Jim Kielbaso

NAYS: None

Motion passed. Jim Kielbaso was elected Chair.

BOARD MEMBER SMITH NOMINATED FRANK HATFIELD AS VICE CHAIR. BOARD MEMBER HARMES SECONDED THE NOMINATION.

Frank Hatfield accepted the nomination.

BOARD MEMBER KIELBASO NOMINATED JON MAYES AS VICE CHAIR. BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE SECONDED THE NOMINATION.

Frank Hatfield withdrew his acceptance. Jon Mayes accepted the nomination.

Roll Call:

AYES: Frank Hatfield, Margo Smith, Roland Harmes, Julie Brixie, Mark Stephens, Jon Mayes, Jim Kielbaso

NAYS: None

Motion passed. Jon Mayes was elected Vice Chair.

b. Dave Caszatt – Northwest (Towar Woods) Land Preserve Project

Dave Caszatt recapped the Northwest Land Preserve Project as follows:

- Has been a lot of deer browsing, ate the tops off of many white and red pines
- The first winter there was snow covering the trees, so no browsing, white pines shot up with the rainy spring and summer in 2014; second winter (2015) there was less snow and the deer browsed a lot
- Volunteers have removed a lot of trash, but there is still patio furniture that needs to be removed by staff, evidence of people living in the area, found cots, sleeping bags, etc.
- Need to get Meridian Township staff out to clear the couches
- Ask neighbors to help with policing the area, need to keep an eye on things, need to call the police immediately to catch people “in the act”
- Deer enclosure a success with five species, only the beech looks stressed
- Buckthorn being controlled with basal bark treatment, in the fourth year of treatment, sawed up the old stuff, put in habitat piles
- Staff Member Alex Zegezowski is making a lot of progress with invasive species management and has treated 12 huge multi-stemmed buckthorn plants on April 10
- On Saturday, April 18, at 8:30 am, Staff Member Alex Zegezowski and three volunteers will cut and pile up buckthorn
- Reviewed funding request for \$4,133 – funds will be used to control common buckthorn with basal bark (estimated \$960); hardwood planting expansion (estimated \$2,000) and transplanted saplings protection (estimated \$1,173)

Discussion:

- Are existing saplings beyond deer height (some too big to move; 4' tall ones can be moved; some have been browsed)
- Suggested using tree protection tubes on smaller trees
- Have had luck with nylon netting instead of chicken wire

BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE MOVED, BOARD MEMBER SMITH SECONDED, TO APPROVE AN EXPENDITURE OF UP TO \$1,000 FOR BASAL BARK TREE TREATMENT, UP TO \$2,000 FOR TREE PLANTING EXPANSION AND UP TO \$2,000 FOR TREE PROTECTION MATERIALS.

Discussion:

- Dave Caszatt reported TC3 is contributing \$500 received for hoop houses at Edgewood Elementary Schools; Joe Pentecost Fund sent \$3,500 and the School only needs \$3,000, so he is offering the extra \$500 to be utilized to purchase larger trees to be planted in the restoration area
- Suggested GPS tree locations and have the QR code and include that they were donated by Joe D Pentecost Fund on the tag; “Donate a Tree” Program

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS OFFERED A FRIENDLY AMENDMENT, “UP TO \$5,000”.

BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE AND SMITH ACCEPTED THE FRIENDLY AMENDMENT.

- Suggested putting mulch in the deer pen, around the trees that are too young for chemicals
- TJ from Van Atta's Nursery is going to assist with the project
- Suggested root pruning before transplanting, in early may, use wet burlap, left them out and keep roots wet
- Asked if the trees can be grown in the Edgewood Hoop House
- Suggested planting smaller trees 12-18" in tubes instead of 3-6' trees
- Would like to use the \$500 grant to purchase larger trees, will protect and stake them and GPS locations for donors
- Spent a lot of time weeding around the smaller trees
- If tree tubes are used, can they be sprayed around
- 3,000 small trees were planted; 50% survived; more whites than reds died
- Suggest giving Dave Caszatt flexibility for the project
- Land preserves should be natural with small trees, not large trees
- Oak's wilt; also should be worrying about "sudden oak"; what about stock fence; also need to stop rabbits (oak wilt affects red oaks, not white – at this time)
- How big is the area (20 acres, irregularly shaped planting area)
- Deer don't eat prairie plants, is there enough sun for prairie plants instead?
- Porcupine Hollow Nursery might have trees; Tamarack is fast growing and like wet ground

Roll Call:

AYES: Frank Hatfield, Margo Smith, Roland Harmes, Julie Brixie, Mark Stephens, Jon Mayes, Jim Kielbaso

NAYS: None

Motion passed.

9. Land Management Coordinator Report

Coordinator Greenway stated she would not be available for the May meeting, suggested a site visit and offered the following:

- May 13: Northwest Preserve (Towar Woods) #7 and Central Meridian Uplands (Rysberg) #9 – it was the consensus of the Board to tour only the Northwest Preserve
- June 10: Southwest Meridian Uplands (Sturk) #12 and Sower Woods #10 - it was the consensus of the Board to tour Central Meridian Uplands (Rysberg) #9
- July 8: Davis/Foster Preserve #1 and Red Cedar Glen #14 - it was the consensus of the Board to tour the Southwest Meridian Uplands (Sturk) #12
- August 12: Lake Lansing North #5: it was the consensus of the Board to tour the Sower woods #10

10. Other

- Global Relief Grant Program – Chair Kielbaso spoke about the program and although it is too late to apply this year, suggested applying next year. It was the consensus of the Board for Coordinator Greenway to write the grant for the Northwest Land Preserve in 2016

- Urban and Community Forestry counsel – Kevin Sayers
- Deer...ask if can receive a July/August crop depredation permit to hunt in the summer
- Meeting Calendar: one member suggested the Board needs to meet more often; stated that if there are items to be addressed, the Board meetings but if there are no items, then why meet;
- Re-Naming Land Preserves Process - Would like to proceed with process; would like to ask Communication Department to assist
- Board Goals/Budget - what are the goals; let's focus on two preserves at one time; staff can only do so much; should we use a consulting company or do something when it comes up; goals are for a year, how much is Land Preservation Board spending; budget process starts in July; put budget together for July meeting
- Staff reminded the board to review the three-ring binder provided to them. It contains a lot of useful information including goals.
- Buckthorn Treatment methods – would like Dave Caszatt to discuss it
- Sower Boulevard – would like to plant Indian grass and little blue stem along the ditch; there are rutted bulldozer tracks from when the drain commissioner cleaned the drain; Michael Nordman in Haslett Rotary would like the firewood from the downed trees; put stakes 15-20' to clear along the sidewalk and clean up the area immediately adjacent to Sower. Jane will get bids for work.
- Lake Lansing Marsh – why is there a large permanent dock near Marsh; Board Member Harmes would like to see the map, legal description and permits for the Marsh; is trapping allowed or is an easement required; Potter property is near this location; asked if it is a dedicated pike spawning marsh
- Sumbal Property – the red house on private property near the viaduct, did the owners get permission to dredging permit for the pond; question directed to Community Planning and Development Department

11. Public Comment

None

12. Closed Session

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER MAYES SECONDED TO MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSSION LAND ACQUISITION ISSUE.

Roll Call:

AYES: Frank Hatfield, Margo Smith, Roland Harmes, Julie Brixie, Mark Stephens, Jon Mayes, Jim Kielbaso

NAYS: None

The Board entered into closed session at 9:30 pm

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

Roll Call:

AYES: Frank Hatfield, Margo Smith, Roland Harmes, Julie Brixie, Mark Stephens, Jon Mayes, Jim Kielbaso

NAYS: None

The Board returned to open session at 10:45 pm

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER SMITH SECONDED, TO TAKE SUCH ACTION AS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION. Voice vote. Motion passed.

13. Adjournment

Hearing no objections, Chair Kielbaso adjourned the meeting at 10:46 pm