



CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Township Service Center  
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court | Haslett, MI  
Wednesday, April 10, 2024, 6 PM

PRESENT: Board Members: Jamie Hiller, Steve Thomas, Kris Parnell, Kathy Fay, Mark Stephens, Yu Man Lee.  
ABSENT: Trustee Marna Wilson  
STAFF: Emma Campbell, Stewardship Coordinator  
TOWNSHIP: None.

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Hiller called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. None.

3. APPROVE AGENDA

A. April 10, 2024

**Board member Fay moved to approve the April 10, 2024 Agenda to place on file. Board member Thomas seconded.**

**Voice vote: unanimous.**

4. APPROVE MINUTES

A. February 14, 2024

**Board member Stephens makes a motion to place the February 14, 2024 minutes on file as amended. Board member Parnell seconded.**

**Voice vote: Unanimous.**

5. COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Marna Wilson is the newly appointed Township Board Trustee to the Land Preservation Advisory Board.
- B. Lucy Breda and Jennifer Soria are introduced as the newly hired Stewardship Coordinator Assistant and Stewardship Field Assistant. Board members also introduce themselves to the new employees.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- A. Ribbon cutting ceremony in May or June for preservation signage
  - a. Combine efforts into the Reclaim Davis project and host a stewardship event to discuss the impact of dogs on trails at the preserves.

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- i. There has been increasing conflict with dogs off leash as well as dog poop on the trails at Davis Foster Preserve. Conflict has occurred between public with dogs off leash and community members who walk the trail as well as with Township staff.
      - b. Unveil the rule signage and discuss good recreation and stewardship of preserves.
      - c. Partner with Meridian Police, HOMTV and local news if possible
      - d. Invite Meridian Conservation Corps volunteers to help plant native species for an additional stewardship effort.
    - b. Education on the state law to leash any dogs on public land, as well as the local ordinance at the Township level.
    - c. Reach out to police, Sarah, HOMTV to see if they are available the week of the 13<sup>th</sup> in May, or other dates in June.
  - B. Acquisition
    - a. Re-evaluate the ecological inventory and the screening process for potential acquisitions by board members
    - b. Acquisition process; discuss updates and changes to bring to the Township Board for review and recommendation
      - a. Board members comments:
        - i. Wait for Trustee Wilson to discuss this issue with the board and await further clarification and direction.
        - ii. Look to the Greenspace Plan and see if we can align with and support any of those goals.
          - 1. Climate Sustainability Plan (CSP)
        - iii. Community Surveys for Land Preservation Program; survey residents about why preserves are important to them and why they believe they are an important part of the Township
          - 1. Would they like to see additions to the land preservation program if ecologically valuable land became available
        - iv. A 'Legacy Program' may be needed to ensure the goals and ideals of program can easily roll over to future boards
        - v. A concern that has been expressed from Township Board Members is land preserves not being a taxable property. If this is a concern, is the LPAB able to cover such taxes as incentive to purchase properties of ecological value?
      - c. Conservation easements as a potential addition to steward ecological valuable land in the Township.
        - a. Developers wanting greenspace to increase the value of the land
        - b. Wetland banking and carbon offset credits
  - C. Wetland setback ordinance; revisions outlined in Master Plan
    - a. Ask Director Wisinski to the June 12 meeting
    - b. Wetland Education Survey – keep it big picture and focus on broad efforts and knowledge that community members may be aware of.
  - D. Televised Land Preservation Advisory Board meetings
    - a. Bring more light to the stewardship efforts and the land preservation program
    - b. Highlight volunteers at this meeting

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- c. If LPAB decides to move forward with this, plan for once a year. Either at the beginning or end of year to talk about accomplishments and goals.

### 8. REPORTS

#### A. STAFF REPORT: Stewardship Coordinator, Emma Campbell

- a. Update on current preservation projects & issues
  - i. Recap for board members absent at January meeting; 2023 Annual Report for Stewardship, 2024 Land Preservation and Stewardship Goals, Update on preservation signage, New Land Preservation name signage, brochure and updated map

#### B. ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REPORT: Commissioner Yu Man Lee

- a. Green Grants were awarded, \$20,000 awarded total to 8 grants
  - i. Tracking for grants – required reporting and follow up for awarded projects.
  - ii. Screening process to ensure productive plants are being installed for any planting projects.
- b. Climate Sustainability Funding is at \$30,000 that is open to all aspects of CSP, not just wetland education
  - i. Wetland Education and Outreach Program was funded with \$10,000
  - ii. EC is asking for proposals to designate funds
    - 1. Projects should align with the CSP and Township Master Plan
    - 2. Deadline is April 20<sup>th</sup>
  - iii. Joint meeting and working discussion with EC.
    - 1. This would be a great opportunity to talk about overlapping goals and how LPAB and EC can accomplish more together for certain issues and projects.

#### C. PARK COMMISSION REPORT: Commissioner Mark Stephens

- a. Park Commission was not interested in Pike Crossing Preserve as a park.

### 9. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. None.

### 10. OTHER MATTERS AND BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS

- A. None.

### 11. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Next Land Preservation Advisory Board Meeting: Wednesday, June 12, 2024 at 6 pm at the Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, Haslett, MI 48840.

### 12. ADJOURNMENT

**Board member Fay moved to adjourn the meeting. Board member Parnell seconded.**

**Voice vote: Unanimous**

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**Chair Hiller adjourned the meeting at 8:07 pm.**

# **EXHIBIT A**

# **EXHIBIT B**