

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2013
6 PM – MERIDIAN SERVICE CENTER

Members Present: Frank Hatfield, James Kielbaso, Robert Rusch, Margo Smith (arrived at 6:05 pm), Mark Stephens, Steve Webster,

Members Absent: Julie Brixie, Jon Mayes

Staff: Land and Management Coordinator Jane Greenway; Chief Engineer Younes Ishraidi; Parks and Recreation Department Secretary Robin Faust

Others: None

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Kielbaso called the regular meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

3. Public Remarks

None

4. Approve Minutes for April 10, 2013

BOARD MEMBER WEBSTER MOVED, COMMISSIONER HATFIELD SECONDED TO APPROVE THE APRIL 10, 2013 MINUTES. Voice vote. Motion passed.

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, COMMISSIONER HATFIELD SECONDED TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO MOVE OLD BUSINESS UP AS THE NEXT AGENDA ITEM. Voice vote. Motion passed.

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Central Meridian Uplands Preserve, Wetland Mitigation for Pathway Project on Central Meridian Wetland Preserve

Meridian Township Chief Engineer Ishraidi reported the Township is proposing to correct previous mitigation and add to the existing mitigation of the Central Meridian Uplands Preserve site. The Township has been working with the DEQ on the pathway project on Raby Road through the Central Meridian Wetlands Preserve and requires wetland mitigation for the boardwalk. The DEQ denied the original plans. The Township hired a their environmental consultant, FTCH, and adjusted the plan, and have received a permit from the DEQ for a 2:1 ratio mitigation and a monitoring report that is required for the next five years.

When asked if soil will be added to the exiting hill, Chief Engineer Ishraidi replied yes. When asked if a larger mitigation should be considered to bank for future projects, Chief Engineer Ishraidi replied that any additional work would require an amendment to the MDEQ permit. When asked the mitigation amount, Chief Engineer Ishraidi replied they need .18 acres but are mitigating .54 acres which means .28 acres for lost wetlands and a bank of .08 acres. The final plan still needs to be sent for final approval by the DEQ. Board Members expressed concern about the use of several non-native plants, shrubs and trees. After a brief discussion, Board Members Stephens and Smith will send a list of plant material to Coordinator Greenway and Chief Engineer Ishraidi. When asked who will be paying for the project, Chief Engineer Ishraidi replied the Pathway Millage and Water/Sewer Fund.

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER HATFIELD SECONDED, TO PROCEED WITH THE MITIGATION PLAN WITH THE SUGGESTIONS ON PLANT MATERIAL TO BE SENT TO COORDINATOR GREENWAY AND THEN ONTO CHIEF ENGINEER ISHRAIDI FOR INCLUSION IN THE FINAL PLAN. Voice vote. Motion passed.

6. Communications

- a. From: Julie Taiber; RE: Accessing Township land off of Sophiea Parkway (Southwest Meridian Uplands)
- b. From: Board Member Hatfield; Re: Land Preservation Inspection Report on the Red Cedar East
- c. To: Land Preserve Neighbor; From: Coordinator Greenway; RE: friendly reminder about dumping on land preserves.

Coordinator Greenway reported Scott Fairmont, who is developing on a neighboring parcel, moved the boulder and the road needs work from Champion Woods into the Sturk property (aka Southwest Meridian Uplands Preserve). The gravel, emergency roadway that provides access to the preserve is supposed to be maintained by Mr. Sturk. The land preservation entrance needs signage and

the neighbors have asked us to keep all the gates closed. Coordinator Greenway will check with the Planning Department about the status of the road in Champion Woods subdivision.

Coordinator Greenway distributed a Land Preservation Inspection Report on the Red Cedar Glen from Board Member Hatfield, noting maintenance and management issues within the preserve.

Coordinator Greenway reported along Cornell roadside of the property, south off Tihart, and the neighbors have parked their trailer and mobile home and are mowing a large portion of the land preserve. Coordinator Greenway stated she will verify ownership and send out a communication on this issue.

Hearing no objections, Chair Kielbaso accepted and placed the items of communication on file.

7. Presentations

None

8. New Business

a. Davis/Foster Land Preserve – Building Demolition

Coordinator Greenway reported the site contains a red barn, pole barn, 1800's farmhouse and 1950's ranch house. According to the Land Preservation Ordinance if a preserve contains a structure, it should be used for land preservation purposes or else it should be removed. Staff has explored various options for managing the structures but since the farmhouse and ranch house are quickly deteriorating, the maintenance costs would be extreme. She has spoken with the previous owner about the demolition of the two buildings and Mrs. Davis understands that demolition may be necessary. Coordinator Greenway recommended demolition of both structures.

Discussion:

- Is there anything on the property that could be used as a monument from the farmhouse
- Have you spoken to previous LPAB members about the demolition?
Requested that Coordinator
- Coordinator Greenway contact former chair, Tom Woiwode, to ask his opinion.
- Demolition of this old structure may be a problem (do not think there will be an issue if adequate notice is given and explain there is no reasonable alternative)
- Could have the site inspected by the Township Building Department, as if it were a rental, to give an idea of how much to bring up to code

- When asked about the well-capping grant program (well abandonment), Coordinator Greenway replied the program has been closed

Staff was asked to contact Tom Woiwode for his recommendation and add this item for action on the next agenda.

9. Land Management Coordinator Report

A. Southwest Meridian Uplands Site Restoration Project - Update

1. Met with Jim Hazelman and Tom Eitniear, US Fish and Wildlife Service. Mark Stephens gave Jim and Tom a tour of the preserve.
2. "Partners for Fish and Wildlife" project. Will create habitat (possibilities include wetland restoration, savannah, designing habitat for endangered species). Will do a phased approach.
3. 10-year gentlemen's agreement to maintain the habitat for 10 years
4. Cost sharing program (50/50). Match can be in-kind services (staff, equipment, etc.). Volunteer hours are calculated at 21.75/hour.
5. The hope is to begin the project in late 2013 or early 2014
6. Approximately project cost is \$28,000 but need to wait for plan.

B. Lake Lansing North Park – Site Visit

1. Reminder: Site visit to the park on July 10, 2013 at 7 p.m.
2. Meet at the neighborhood entrance to the park at the street intersection of Wild Ginger Trail and Woodwind Trail in Haslett.
3. We will visit and discuss recent and ongoing restoration projects in the park, including: deer resistant native plant garden at park entrance, natural communities and dominant native plants and invasive species threats, recent woodland prescribed burn and follow-up monitoring for deer browsing, light levels, and plant diversity, a prairie-oak savanna restoration, non-native phragmites control and a nearby native phragmites population

C. Davis/Foster Land Preserve – Site Visit

1. The Mid-Michigan Stewardship Initiative Group will meet at the Davis Foster Preserve at **9 a.m. on July 25, 2013** to walk the site and tour the savannah restoration project
2. The Henslow's sparrows have returned; burn was postponed to fall

D. Lake Lansing North – Prairie/Savannah Planting

1. On June 4, 2013, 50 fifth-grade students from Murphy Elementary and their teachers, Mrs. Mahon and Mrs. Roy, planted sand prairie grasses and forbs in a disturbed area within the park (within the 120-acre portion that is under a LPAB conservation easement).
2. The students collected the seeds in the fall of 2012 and stratified and then germinated them in the Murphy Elementary Greenhouse.
3. LPAB provided a \$500 grant for this project to help the cost of materials and transportation costs.

E. Red Cedar Glen Preserve, Drain Project

1. A contractor has been selected for the project. Site work will begin in July or August with an expected end date of November, 2013.
2. Wildflowers and other "sensitive" plants have been identified.
3. Discussed split-rail fence with neighbor to keep preserve visitors off his property. Possible Eagle Scout project.
4. Work will involve bioengineering techniques such as log revetments, stilling ponds, and a boardwalk over the central stream.
5. Project costs have increased from \$250,000 to \$800,000; 40% of the assessment will be assigned to the railroad; there will be a district-at-large assessment for the township as well (approximately 25-30k total)
6. There has been no decision on the pathway but will check on it
7. Board Member Hatfield will flag the lungwort

F. Deer Management Program

1. Presented a final report to the Township Board; very supportive of continuing program into 2013
2. Suggestion has been made to expand the number of sites; proposing to have Nick Sanchez assist with identification of sites, posting, etc.; will be contacting MSU and Delta Dental about including their parcels
3. Discussed presentation to Park Commission by Chad Blass - MSU PhD candidate, Fisheries and Wildlife, on the "Social and Spatial Structure of Deer in Urban Landscapes"; Board Members asked to have the presentation emailed to them; also discussed use of a special permit for trapping or euthanize on private property and it was suggested to change the ratio to 1:1 (take a doe, then take a buck)

10. Other
 - a. Joint meeting with Park Commission

Coordinator Greenway reported a date has not been set but looking at a Wednesday night in August. When asked which date was good for Board Members, the majority preferred August 28. Staff is developing a draft agenda. It was suggested to include a land swap cooperative program.

11. Public Comment

None

12. Closed Session

None

13. Adjournment

BOARD MEMBER WEBSTER MOVED, BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS
SECONDED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm.