



**AGENDA**  
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 12, 2017 6 PM



1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Approve Agenda
3. Public Remarks
4. Approve Minutes (blue)
  - a. March 8, 2017
5. Communications (tan)
6. Old Business
7. New Business
8. Land Management and Stewardship Reports (green)
9. Public Comment
10. Other
11. Announcements
12. Closed Session (separate envelope)
13. Adjournment

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All comments limited to 3 minutes, unless prior approval for additional time for good cause is obtained from the Chair and/or Acting Chair if necessary.

Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Meridian Township Board by contacting:  
Township Manager Frank L. Walsh, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 or 517.853.4258 - Ten Day Notice is Required.  
Meeting Location: 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864 Township Hall

Meridian Township exists to create a sustainable community through the most effective use of available resources that achieve the highest quality of life.



A PRIME COMMUNITY  
meridian.mi.us

## 4. Minutes - March 8, 2017

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
LAND PRESERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2017  
6 PM – SERVICE CENTER

Members Present: Julie Brixie, Roland Harmes, Jamie Hiller, James Kielbaso, Yu Man Lee  
(arrived at 6:10 pm), Jon Mayes, Margo Smith, Mark Stephens

Members Absent: None

Staff: Jane Greenway, Senior Parks and Land Management Coordinator;  
Kelsey Dillon, Stewardship Coordinator

Other: Dave Groop

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Mayes called the meeting to order at 6 pm.

2. Approve Agenda

BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE MOVED, BOARD MEMBER KIELBASO SECONDED, TO  
APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED. Voice vote. Motion passed.

3. Public Remarks

None

4. Approve Minutes

a. February 8, 2017

BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE MOVED, BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS SECONDED, TO  
APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 8, 2017 BOARD MEETING MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.  
Voice vote. Motion passed.

5. Communications

None

6. Old Business

None

7. New Business (orchid)

a. Financial Statement 12/31/16

Board Member Brixie reviewed the Land Preservation Advisory Board (LPAB) Budget Summary unaudited as of December 31, 2016 contained in the meeting packet.

Board Member Brixie recommended moving forward with approved management activities without bringing all bids and purchase orders to the LPAB for approval.

Discussion:

- Suggested accepting the recommendation although all new management plans and expenditures would be brought to the LPAB
- Suggested management plans with updates be included in future LPAB packets

It was the consensus of the LPAB Board for staff to move forward with approved management plans without LPAB review of bids and purchase orders but all new management plans and proposed expenditures would be reviewed and approved by LPAB.

8. Land Management and Stewardship Reports

Coordinator Dillon reported on:

a. Vernal Pool Project

- Created advertisements through social media and as a Facebook event

b. Davis Foster Preserve:

- MSU Global Day of Service – possibly have volunteers tube pine seedlings previously planted at the Preserve
- Information on the barn on the west side of Van Atta to be included in the April LPAB packets for discussion

c. Lake Lansing Arbor Day Planting:

- BOARD MEMBER SMITH MOVED, BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE SECONDED, TO APPROVE \$300 FROM THE MAINTENANCE FUNDS TO COVER BUSING COSTS FOR ZSA MAHON'S 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CLASS FOR THE TREE PLANTING DAY ON APRIL 28.

Roll Call:

AYES: Julie Brixie, Roland Harmes, Jamie Hiller, James Kielbaso, Yu Man Lee,  
Jon Mayes, Margo Smith, Mark Stephens

NAYS: None

Motion passed.

9. Public Comment

None

10. Other

None

11. Announcements

None

12. Closed Session

BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE MOVED, BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS SECONDED, TO  
MOVE INTO CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS LAND ACQUISITION ISSUES.

Roll Call:

AYES: Julie Brixie, Roland Harmes, Jamie Hiller, James Kielbaso, Yu Man Lee, Jon  
Mayes, Margo Smith, Mark Stephens

NAYS: None

The LPAB moved into closed session at 7 pm.

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE SECONDED, TO ADJOURN  
THE CLOSED SESSION AND RETURN TO OPEN SESSION.

Roll Call:

AYES: Julie Brixie, Roland Harmes, Jamie Hiller, James Kielbaso, Yu Man Lee, Jon Mayes,  
Margo Smith, Mark Stephens

NAYS: None

The LPAB returned to open session at 8:55 pm.

BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE SECONDED, FOR STAFF TO TAKE SUCH ACTION AS WAS DISCUSSED DURING CLOSED SESSION. Voice vote. Motion passed.

13. Adjournment  
BOARD MEMBER STEPHENS MOVED, BOARD MEMBER BRIXIE SECONDED, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.

The meeting adjourned at 9 pm.

## 5. Communications

## Kelsey Dillon

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**From:** Kelsey Dillon  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2017 7:50 AM  
**To:** 'kielbas3@anr.msu.edu'; 'steph143@msu.edu'; Julie Brixie; 'jtmayes@sbcglobal.net'; 'smithmk@msu.edu'; 'harmesr@aol.com'; 'hiller1jw@gmail.com'; 'Yu Man Lee'  
**Cc:** Jane Greenway  
**Subject:** Vernal Pool Flyer & Facebook Page - Please Share  
**Attachments:** 2017\_MidMichigan\_Vernal Pool Training\_MNFI (1).pdf

Hello LPAB Members,

I have attached the updated flyer for the Vernal Pool Presentation. We have also created a Facebook event:  
<http://bit.ly/MeridianVernalPools>

The success of the monitoring program depends on having a good number of volunteers. Please share with anyone who might be interested.

Thank you!



**Kelsey Dillon**  
Park Naturalist and Stewardship Coordinator  
[dillon@meridian.mi.us](mailto:dillon@meridian.mi.us)  
W 517.853.4614 | F 517.853.4099  
2100 Gaylord C. Smith Crt. | Haslett, MI 48840  
[meridian.mi.us](http://meridian.mi.us)



DO YOU... ENJOY BEING OUTDOORS? CARE ABOUT WILDLIFE? WANT TO SEE COOL THINGS?



## Introduction to Vernal Pools (with an optional training opportunity!)

Saturday, March 25, 2017  
10:00 am - 11:00 am

Meridian Township Municipal Building  
Town Hall Room  
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864



**Come join us for a public presentation to learn more about vernal pool ecology and how you can help monitor and protect these important wetlands!**

**Why:** Vernal pools are small, isolated, temporary wetlands that are important for healthy forest ecosystems. Because these wetlands dry up and are fishless, they provide critical breeding habitats for amphibians and invertebrates. Their small size and temporary nature make vernal pools vulnerable to climate change and encroachment by human land use and invasive species, requiring our protection.

**Field Training/Citizen Science Opportunity:** For those who want a more in-depth experience, a follow-up workshop will show you how to map and monitor vernal pools in the field and see associated plants and animals! Requires a commitment to three data gathering visits per year for two years, contributing to a statewide effort to map/monitor vernal pools.

### Field Training Days:

March 31<sup>st</sup>, 10:30 am-2:30 pm or April 9<sup>th</sup>, 1:30-5 pm  
**If you have any questions or would like to register for a field training workshop, please email [VernalPools@meridian.mi.us](mailto:VernalPools@meridian.mi.us)**

### Join the Event on Facebook!

<http://bit.ly/MeridianVernalPools>



Training provided by Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI)  
Hosted by Meridian Township Land Preservation Advisory Board and Parks & Recreation, Friends of Ingham County Parks, Wild Ones Red Cedar Chapter, and Mid-Michigan Stewardship Initiative



## Kelsey Dillon

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**From:** Kelsey Dillon  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 01, 2017 10:58 AM  
**To:** Mayes, Jon (DNR); kielbas3@msu.edu; smithmk@msu.edu; Julie Brixie; Stephens, Mark; hillier1jw@gmail.com; harmesr@aol.com; Yu Man Lee (leey@michigan.gov); kielbas3@anr.msu.edu  
**Cc:** Jane Greenway  
**Subject:** FYI - Prescribed Burn at Davis Foster Tomorrow (3/2) at 4pm

Hello LPAB Members,

Our contractor, Mike Appel, will be burning 4 acres at the Davis Foster Preserve off of Van Atta Road tomorrow from 4pm-5pm. Tavis Millerov has been contacted and approved the burn. The fire department will be present and all necessary contacts have been made as far as neighbors and those that have asked to be notified the day before. I'll be on site as well to take photos and video.

The fire will be close to the road and we will have signs up to warn motorists. We do not want to advertise the burn because we do not want too many people trying to come see it but a few people (if any of you want to come) will be manageable. It should be a short, slow burn.

My cell phone is 937-684-7484; if you have any questions give me a call.

Thank you,

Kelsey

## Kelsey Dillon

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**From:** Kelsey Dillon  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 02, 2017 9:12 AM  
**To:** Mayes, Jon (DNR); kielbas3@msu.edu; smithmk@msu.edu; Julie Brixie; Stephens, Mark; hillier1jw@gmail.com; harmesr@aol.com; Yu Man Lee; kielbas3@anr.msu.edu  
**Subject:** Prescribed Burn Cancelled Today

Hello LPAB Members,

I just got off of the phone with the contractor and he has decided to cancel the prescribed burn for today. There was an unfavorable change in the wind that would have led to a large amount of smoke on the road. I will keep you notified of when it will be rescheduled.

Thank you,  
Kelsey Dillon

# 8. Land Management and Stewardship Reports

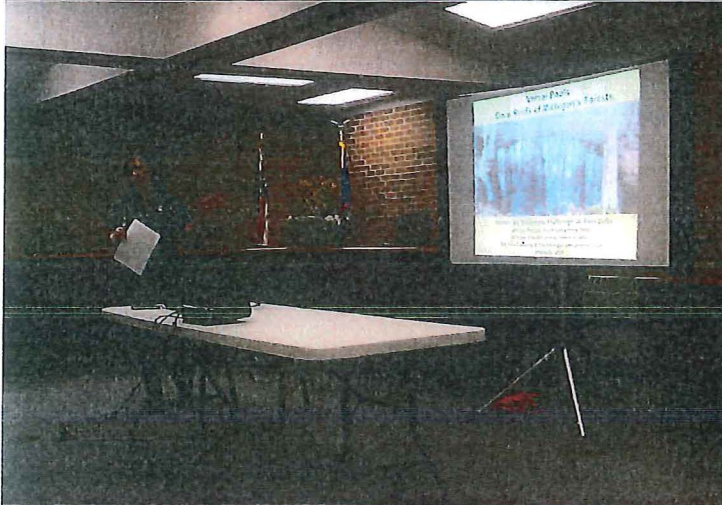
## Stewardship Coordinator Report

April 12, 2016

- Vernal Pool Project
  - 50 attended the Vernal Pool Presentation on March 25<sup>th</sup>
  - 25 attended the first training workshop
  - 29 are signed up for the training workshop on April 9<sup>th</sup>
  - Mapping of vernal pools on all Meridian Township properties completed
  - I will be the coordinator for all data collected in Meridian Parks and Preserves
- MSU Global Day of Service
  - 24 signed up to volunteer at Davis Foster on April 8<sup>th</sup>
- Davis Foster Prescribed Burn
  - Mike Appel scheduled the burn on Friday (3/31) evening for Sunday (4/2) at 4pm
  - An unfavorable change in the wind on Sunday morning caused a cancellation
  - Area must be burned before 4/15
- Tree Planting/Arbor Day
  - 300 Blue-X tubes
  - 245 trees will be delivered on April 26<sup>th</sup>
  - Zsa's class will plant them at Lake Lansing North on Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>
    - Murphy elementary 5<sup>th</sup> class
  - Towar Woods Tree Planting on April 29<sup>th</sup>
    - Starbucks advertising for their employees to volunteer
  - Northridge tree planting with Haslett Scout Troop 265 and neighbors
    - Either Sunday April 30<sup>th</sup> (most likely) or Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>
    - Area to be cleared this month by grounds crew
- TBD – Seed balls at Davis Foster



Introduction to Vernal Pools Presentation on March 25<sup>th</sup> - 50 Participants





Vernal Pool Monitoring Workshop 1 on March 31<sup>st</sup> – 25 Participants







## CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN LAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM

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### 2017 MANAGEMENT PLAN

#### **1. Land Preservation Signs**

These are the large wooden signs that designate the land preservation properties and come in two sizes (small and large). Preserves that need signs:

- Davis Foster needs one large sign on the west side of Van Atta
- SW Meridian Uplands needs two small signs at the Champion Woods and Estates entrances
- Red Cedar River East needs one large sign off of Grand River Ave. and one small sign on the river for paddlers to see
- Serafine needs one large sign off of Mt. Hope Road that also has the dedication to the Serafine Family as negotiated in the purchase of the property
- Tihart/Cornell Wetland needs two small signs
- Towner Road Wetland needs one large and one small sign

#### **2. Property Boundary Marker Posts & Installation**

Four preserves need property boundary post installation:

- Red River Cedar East
- Serafine
- Forest Grove

#### **3. Boundary Surveys**

Boundary surveys need to be completed for the following preserves:

- Serafine

#### **4. Interpretive & Directional Signage**

Preserves with trails will receive trailhead signs along with directional signage along the trails. Trail signage will be color coded and match the look of the park and natural area signs. Trails in land preserves will be added to the online GIS system this year as well.

The Davis Foster Land Preserve will be getting a bird observation deck and a space for outdoor "place-based" education for local school groups. David Vanderklok, a local architect, will be helping with the design of the raised platform and sitting area underneath. Plans and final cost will be presented to the board before construction. Davis will also be getting interpretational signage on the history of the property and the grassland restoration project.

#### **5. Rules Signs**

All preserves will receive at least one rules sign (preserves with trails at multiple entrances will receive a rules sign at each entrance, see spreadsheet for numbers). As soon as the logo is available we will order all signs and install ASAP.

#### **6. Stewardship Plans**

We need to complete the stewardship plans for the preserves that do not have them where we are creating new management plans. Invasive species assessments will not be ordered at this time.



- SW Meridian Uplands
- Northridge
- Forest Grove

### **7. Invasive Species Management**

Invasive Species management expenses are now integrated into site restoration and general categories.

### **8. Site Restoration**

Site restoration refers to anything that increases ecosystem health within the preserve. Our preserve projects for 2017 are as follows:

- Davis Foster- 4 acre prescribed burn on the west side of Van Atta Road, invasive species management, seed ball enhancement (possibly plugs as well)
- Lake Lansing North - Tree planting
- Tower Woods - Tree planting and invasive species management
- Sower Woods - Provide equipment for volunteers to perform invasive species management and forb enhancement
- SW Meridian Uplands - Continue grassland/prairie installation and invasive species management
- Northridge - Small scale tree planting to engage volunteers and start on invasive species management
- Serafine - Eager neighbors, we need to organize a few workdays for invasive management as soon as we close on the property

### **9. General/Miscellaneous**

Herbicide will be purchased in large orders to save money on shipping unless a specialty herbicide is required for a certain treatment.

A security fence needs to be installed at Davis Foster along the east side of Van Atta Road with a gate that will be locked and opened by police. Security camera footage shows a lot of activity after hours at the preserve as well as ATVs and dirt bikes on the property.

### **10. Trail Maintenance**

This money pays for the grounds crew to clear and maintain the trails in applicable preserves.

### **11. Stewardship Groups**

Monetary support for the Stewardship Network (\$1,500 to the larger organization and \$3,500 to the Mid-Michigan chapter that operates in the Lansing area). The Stewardship Network provides valuable online resources and the local chapter provides on the ground support and advice on invasive species removal.