

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
Meridian Municipal Building – Town Hall Room
December 7, 2016 - APPROVED**

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Chair Bill McConnell, Vice-Chair Lise Schools, Commissioners John Sarver, Ben Holland, Ned Jackson, Jim Kielbaso, Susan Masten

ABSENT: Donald Dickmann

STAFF: Senior Planner Peter Menser

OTHERS: Planning Commission Chair John Scott-Craig

1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER

Chair McConnell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

- MOTION BY COMMISSIONER JACKSON TO APPROVE AGENDA. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER MASTEN. MOTION APPROVED 7-0.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 3, 2016 MEETING

- MOTION BY VICE-CHAIR SCHOOLS TO APPROVE MINUTES. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER JACKSON. MOTION APPROVED 7-0.

4. PUBLIC REMARKS

5. ACTION ITEM: Wetland Use Permit #16-06 (Stockwell)

Staff presented a brief overview of the wetland use permit request from Ken Stockwell. Applicants Amanda Hopper and Ken Stockwell summarized the project and described the reasons the request is being made. Environmental Commission discussion included the following:

- Concern over demonstrated public need for the proposed activity
 - Traffic crash data around project site
 - Access to stormwater basin for maintenance and to remove sediment
 - Difficulty of grading site due to significant changes in elevation
 - Concern over lack of information on proposed alternatives
 - Encouragement for applicant to showcase wetland features on site
 - Status of existing house on the property
 - Preference for stormwater basin to be landscaped
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- MOTION BY MEMBER JACKSON TO CONCUR WITH TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT AND RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF WETLAND USE PERMIT #16-06 TO PLANNING COMMISSION CONDITIONED ON INGHAM COUNTY DRAIN COMMISSIONER APPROVAL. SUPPORTED BY MEMBER MASTEN. MOTION APPROVED 6-1 (MASTEN).

6. GREEN THEMES PRESENTATION: SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE ACTION PLAN, LEROY HARVEY, MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP RECYCLING COORDINATOR

Mr. Harvey described the Meridian Township Energy Team and its early successes in saving money and energy for the Township by initiating projects that reduce energy consumption. Mr. Harvey also reviewed in detail elements of the Sustainability and Climate Action Plan document put together by the Meridian Energy Team, which includes information on energy efficiency, renewable energy, recycling, water management, and transportation. Environmental Commission discussion included the following:

- Importance of reviewing development projects in context of CO2 loss/gain
- U.S. has regressed in terms of solid waste recycling
- Importance of educating residents about not watering lawn
- Concern over obstacles to residents in installing solar panels

7. 2017 MEETING SCHEDULE

- MOTION BY COMMISSIONER JACKSON TO APPROVE 2017 MEETING SCHEDULE. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER MASTEN.

8. CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair McConnell reported the following:

- Attendance at the work sessions of the Planning Commission to discuss the draft Master Plan
- Offered congratulations and appreciation to the new Township Board and Supervisor
- Suggested reviewing the progress of the 2016 Environmental Commission goals at the next meeting on January 4, 2017
- Expressed appreciation to Vice Chair Lise Schools for work on Environmental Commission

9. STAFF REPORT

- a. **Garry Rowe groundwater project/presentation** – Staff provided a brief update regarding the water testing efforts by former Ingham County Sanitarian Garry Rowe. Mr. Rowe will likely be attending an upcoming meeting to present his findings.

10. COMMISSIONER SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Land Preservation: Closed on purchase of Tank Trust property, will close on Serafine property soon. MI Natural Resources Trust Fund met regarding purchase of a 89 acre property near Ponderosa subdivision and south of Legg Park.

Energy Team: Encouragement to fellow Commissioners to share ideas for future Green Themes presentations related to climate change. Requested staff to contact Drain Commissioner or Engineering Department staff to present on stormwater management.

Student Engagement: None

Parks: None

11. MASTER PLAN RECOMMENDATION

Chair McConnell summarized the elements in the draft Master Plan related to conservation of open space and suggested they could be enhanced. He shared concerns that the Priority Conservation Corridors are not depicted on the Future Land Use Map.

- MOTION BY CHAIR MCCONNELL TO FORWARD MEMORANDUM DATED DECEMBER 7, 2016 REGARDING THE MASTER PLAN TO PLANNING COMMISSION FOR CONSIDERATION. SUPPORTED BY COMMISSIONER SARVER.

12. PUBLIC REMARKS

Resident Judy Kindel requested input and Environmental Commission support to convince the Township Board to officially adopt the Sustainability and Climate Action Plan as policy.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. without objection.