

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES
Meridian Municipal Building
September 17, 2014 - draft**

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Chair Jackson and Commissioners Moran, Searl, Scherbarth, McConnell, Sarver, and Kielbaso

ABSENT: None

STAFF

PRESENT: Richard F. Brown, Jr., AICP, CBSP Associate Planner

OTHERS

PRESENT: Heather Seyfarth, Tonia Howen, Judy Kindle, and LeRoy Harvey.

1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Jackson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

- **MOTION** by Commissioner Scherbarth to approve the agenda with the addition of discussing the Greenspace Plan. Supported by Commissioner McConnell. Approved 7-0.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MAY 7, 2014 WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

- **MOTION** by Commissioner McConnell to approve the minutes with corrections. Supported by Commissioner Sarver. Approved 7-0.

4. GREEN THEMES PRESENTATION ENTITLED "SOLAR READY COMMUNITIES" BY HEATHER SEYFARTH, AICP OF THE CLEAN ENERGY COALITION:

She summarized the ten steps to becoming a Solar Ready Community in Michigan.

1. Begin the discussion
2. Adopt a resolution
3. Establish a guiding policy that supports solar
4. Update code language
5. Create an easy to use permitting process
6. Provide easy access to information
7. Establish solar installation targets
8. Train staff
9. Pursue solar business opportunities
10. Go the extra mile

5. **PUBLIC REMARKS**

Tonia Howen, Judy Kindle and LeRoy Harvey briefly spoke.

6. **CHAIR'S REPORT**

None

9. **COMMUNICATIONS/STAFF REPORT**

Associate Planner Brown summarized the following:

- Meridian Township won the 2014 Greater Lansing Smart Commute
- The next recycling event is on October 4th
- The ITC Tree Grant was awarded and the locations are to be picked this week.
- Guest speakers arranged for October and November.

10. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Associate Planner Brown summarized the idea of the Commission helping homeowners finding replacement trees for streets trees lost to storm, disease, etc. Staff to provide the Commission with more background for the October meeting.

Commissioner McConnell inquired about the continued application of the Greenspace Plan and progress on implementing it after 10 years. Staff summarized its successes.

- **MOTION** by Commissioner McConnell to ask Associate Planner Brown to present a Green Themes summary of progress on implementing the Greenspace Plan after ten years at the December meeting. Supported by Commissioner Moran. Approved 7-0.

11. **STUDY GROUPS/LIAISON REPORTS**

No reports

12. **PUBLIC REMARKS**

None

13. **ADJOURNMENT**

- **MOTION** by Commissioner Kielbaso to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Supported by Commissioner Sarver. Approved 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.