

**CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN  
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MINUTES  
Meridian Municipal Building  
July 17, 2013 - APPROVED**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**PRESENT:** Vice-Chair Thomas and Commissioners Moran, Scherbarth, Searl, and Kielbaso.

**ABSENT:** Chair Jackson, Commissioner Donahue, and Student Commissioners Martell and Stanley.

**STAFF**

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

**OTHERS**

**PRESENT:** William Conklin of the Ingham County Department of Transportation & Roads

**1. CALL REGULAR MEETING TO ORDER**

Vice-Chair Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE REGULAR MEETING AGENDA**

- **MOTION** by Commissioner Moran to approve the agenda. Supported by Commissioner Scherbarth. Approved 5-0.

**3. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 5, 2013 WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

- **MOTION** by Commissioner Scherbarth to approve the minutes. Supported by Commissioner Kielbaso. Approved 5-0.

**4. PUBLIC REMARKS**

None.

**5. CHAIR'S REPORT**

Vice-Chair Thomas had no report.

**6. COMMUNICATIONS/STAFF REPORT**

Associate Planner Brown summarized the following:

- 2013 Smart Commute summary
- Wetland Committee report on Wetland Use Permit #13-01
- Environmental Consultant report on Wetland Use Permit #13-01

**7. OTHER BUSINESS**

Vice-Chair Thomas summarized the review status of Wetland Use Permit #13-01. There are

wetland impacts along the entire length of the Cornell Road project, particularly if the shoulders are widened. A general discussion took place on the proposed wetland impacts, as well as a number of questions to managing Director Bill Conklin, which he responded to. Two options are under consideration by the Township Board – one comprehensive and one more limited in scope. The final determination on which will be employed is up to the Township Board.

The consistently measured travel speed along the corridor was in the 45 mph to 50 mph range – therefore it is unlikely the speed limit will be reduced.

Commissioners expressed concerns about the lack of a mitigation plan, a proposed site for the mitigation, and the lack of a soil erosion and sedimentation control plan. Mr. Conklin indicated that all of their final plans will have Michigan Department of Transportation standard soil erosion plans included.

There was some confusion over who is the applicant and who is the project manager – Ingham County or the Township. Ingham County is listed as the applicant, but Mr. Conklin indicated Public Works Director Severy is the project manager.

A general discussion took place on potential wetland mitigation sites, including the Tihart/Cornell Wetland Preservation site and the Davis Farm on Van Atta Road. Also, there was a conversation on the timing for completion of each option in 2013.

Following the discussion with Mr. Conklin, there was a discussion amongst the Commissioners on how to proceed and what recommendation to make to the Planning Commission. A discussion also occurred on how best to include the comments and observations of the Wetland Committee.

- **MOTION** by Commissioner Scherbarth to recommend denial of Wetland Use Permit #13-01 (Ingham County) due to an incomplete application, the lack of a specific location for wetland mitigation, and the lack of a soil erosion plan.

Furthermore, based on the Wetland Committee's review of submitted materials and an on-site visit, the Environmental Commission has the following observations and concerns about the project/permit (see attached memorandum). Supported by Commissioner Kielbaso. Motion approved 5-0.

**8. STUDY GROUPS/LIAISON REPORTS**

None

**9. PUBLIC REMARKS**

None

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

- **MOTION** by Commissioner Scherbarth to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Supported by Commissioner Kielbaso. Approved 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.