



AGENDA
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
May 6 2020 7 pm

ZOOM MEETING

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER
2. ZOOM TIPS/ORIENTATION (how to unmute, etc. if needed)
3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
5. PUBLIC REMARKS
6. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Chair or Vice Chair Nominations
 - B. Environmental Commission Opening
 - C. COVID Conversation (Ways this experience might shape our agenda in the months to come?)
 - D. EV Ready Ordinance (<https://www.evconnect.com/blog/ev-ready-building-codes-advantages/>)
 - E. Other
7. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Township Board Meeting Presentation Reschedule?
 - a. Climate Action Report Year II
 - b. Climate Emergency Resolution
 - c. PAH (Coal Tar Sealant) Recommendation
 - d. Other?
 - B. Wetland Bank: Next steps.
 - C. Other
8. CHAIR'S REPORT
9. STAFF REPORT
10. COMMISSION/LIASON/WORKGROUP REPORTS
 - A. Tree Team
 - B. Planning – Form-based Code
 - C. Land Preservation
 - D. Energy
 - E. Brownfield Redevelopment Authority
 - F. Green Team
 - G. Transportation
11. PUBLIC REMARKS
12. ADJOURNMENT



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2020 7:00 PM

PRESENT: Bill McConnell, John Sarver, Jim Kielbaso, Kirk Lapham, Ned Jackson
STAFF: LeRoy Harvey, Environmental Programs Coordinator
GUESTS: Theresa Lark, Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council (MMEAC)

Green Theme Presentation: Theresa Lark, described her work with the City of Lansing, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, MSU, the Ingham County Land Bank and others. One is a domicology project exploring salvage of building materials through “deconstruction” and marketing of demolition “waste.”

Another is working with urban areas to promote green infrastructure through a mentorship grant from the Erb Foundation. A key aspect is helping Lansing review its codes and ordinances using a Green Infrastructure Audit Tool. This may also relate to form-based code discussions in Lansing, East Lansing, and Meridian. Lark shared a sample of the audit tool. Other ideas mentioned...

- Why Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI)?
 - Lansing is interested in reducing stress on its aging sewer infrastructure as well as yard waste reduction.
 - Sarver mentions more standing water on his lawn – and increase flooding as an impetus to consider GSI
- What is GSI and what are examples?
 - The Toward Garden rain gardens project was mentioned as an example
 - Rain gardens (to be installed at the Market on the Green)
 - Tree planting. MMEAC is discussing a regional effort called “10,000 trees”
 - Buffer strips
- What are barriers?
 - Awareness of the importance of GSI
 - homeowner associations which discourage “strange looking lawns”
 - codes/laws that allow destruction of green infrastructure
- What next?
 - Review codes and processes for opportunities but this is a goal of the Environmental Commission
 - Talk to the Township Board later this month – share passages in our Climate Sustainability Plan – suggest the audit
 - Work with HOMTV to do stories
 - Complete Green Infrastructure Tour – promote TCRPC’s GSI Tour
 - Consider an event -- A “rain garden” tour, modelled after the solar home tour
 - Check with Susan Maston to discuss her insights about and improvements to our lawn ordinance (and how we might encourage residential GSI, alternative landscaping, etc.).
 - Continue to discuss next steps.
 - McConnell suggest that we think about opportunities in two areas: new developments and existing subdivisions.
 - Jackson asks about businesses that can help do installations.
 - Seek MMEAC’s summary / Distribute Lark’s 6 page summary.

Approve Minutes: Minutes approved as amended

New Business

Courtney Boersema was appointed as a Student Member of the Environmental Commission.

Green Infrastructure and Green Building Developments – bring up with the Board at their special meeting on March 31st at 6pm: Environmentally-focused Meeting with Board. Sarver, McConnell, Harvey, and Lapham will likely attend. Jackson offered to edit the PAH presentation. Sarver can review the Climate Emergency Resolution. McConnell can follow Sarver to discuss Climate Action Goals. Kielbaso or Lapham can provide a tree update (sites, species, costs, maintenance plan, etc.). McConnell suggests this structure: What we've accomplished, Where we are now, Next steps (sharing options and inviting comments and input).

Old Business

Wetland Bank: Steve Pennington with EGLE offered to do a walk-through of the Linn Preserve to determine if it is eligible for a wetland bank (prior existence of wetland). The Land Preservation Board will also discuss what next week to determine the next steps.

Reports:

Chair's Report: Lapham mentions that the State has set drinking water standards for PFAS and related chemicals. Michigan is a leader in this regard. Jackson mentions that we already have some of these levels in our blood and do not break down easily. Lapham mentions high levels in A2 compost due to food containers they think.

Staff Report: April 25 is the recycling event. Recently meet with Emily Freeman to discuss potential grants and studies of our Recycling Center – including potential collaboration with the new material recycling processing center. The green team will be at the Farmers Market on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays from 10-2pm. Harvey's also working with a group of students on a Green Infrastructure Tour. Harvey is also helping with a Green Business Luncheon on April 9.

Tree Team: Kielbaso provided an update from our Tree Team meeting which discussed sources and species of trees. Still working on locations for trees at Haslett and Okemos school districts. Kielbaso has connections with several nurseries. McConnell mentions grassy spots at Chippewa Middle School. A bed of trees might be easier to protect from deer and easier to mow around. Filling up around the sign/marquis. The Township has offered use of a backhoe.

Planning: There have been four marijuana facilities which have been reviewed by Planning. There's also a proposed zoning amendment to enable more of a mix of housing types. Density bonuses that are driven by amenities (such as green infrastructure) could be an opportunity for the EC. There's also movement on a senior complex toward the back of the Hannah developments. There are some wetlands that may require a permit. The form-based code discussion is focused on Gr. River between Northwind and Park Lake. It will be a while before it. Dave Premoe is now the liaison to the Brownfield Development Authority

Land Preservation: Kielbaso reports that Emma Campbell, Park Naturalist, discussed a Conservation Corp for the Township. This volunteer group could be helping on parks and natural area preservation. Kielbaso mentioned a parallel in urban forestry where volunteers are trained in pruning. Also discussed wetland bank.

Energy: Fate of the Earth conference will be Mar 21 (cancelled). LWV is doing some presentations on local governments and communities. Both John Sarver and McConnell will be presenting. There will be dialogue sessions in the afternoon.

Brownfield: Jackson mentions that the Committee met on Feb 20. They're setting up a TIF agreement for the property at Jolly and Okemos.

Green Team: Covered in Staff Report.

Transportation Commission: McConnell reports that there is a special meeting planned for Thursday at the Central Fire Station to discuss improvements to Jolly Rd.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:15 pm.

Next Meetings: To Be Determined (likely May 6)

Sec. 50-821. - Electric vehicle charging stations.

**SHARE LINK TO SECTIONPRINT SECTIONDOWNLOAD (DOCX) OF SECTIONSEMAIL
SECTIONCOMPARE VERSIONS**

Definitions for the purposes of this section:

(1)

a.

Electric vehicle means a fully electric automobile or hybrid gas and electric automobile.

b.

Level 2 or better charging station means a public or private parking space that is served by battery charging station equipment that has as its primary purpose the transfer of electric energy by conductive or inductive means to a battery or other energy storage device in an electric vehicle equipped with a level 2 or better charging equipment.

c.

Private restricted use charging station means an electric vehicle charging station that is (1) privately owned and restricted access; for example executive parking or designated employee parking, or (2) publicly owned and restricted; for example fleet parking with no access to the general public.

d.

Public use charging station means an electric vehicle charging station that is (1) publicly owned and publicly available; for example park and ride, public library lot, or on street parking, or (2) privately owned and available to visitors of the use; for example shopping center parking.

(2)

Each non-residential use of a property, combined residential with a non-residential use, or multiple-family residential property with at least 50 required parking spaces shall have one level 2 or better charging station installed in the parking lot. The charging stations on private property may be either private restricted use charging stations or public use charging stations at the property owner's discretion. One additional level 2 or better charger shall be installed for each 50 additional parking spaces required or installed on the premises identified in this provision. All chargers required by this provision shall be maintained operational.

(3)

This provision shall apply to each new site plan and to each revised or amended site plan which expands the current parking on the premises.

(4)

An electric vehicle charging station required pursuant to this section may be counted as a parking space in the calculation of the parking spaces required by this Code.

(5)

Public use charging stations shall be reserved for parking and charging of electric vehicles only. Electric vehicles may be parked in any space designated for parking subject to the restrictions that would apply to any other vehicle that would park in that space.

(6)

A developer or property owner may apply for an exemption to this requirement or a reduction in the number of stations required if the developer or property owner can show one or more of the following:

a.

That the anticipated parking duration due to the particular use of the property, or similar considerations, would not make the presence of charging stations reasonable due to the lack of the likelihood of use of the station or stations.

b.

That the expense of complying with this requirement significantly outweighs the level of cost of the improvement so as to preclude the improvement if this requirement was imposed.

c.

That the imposition of this requirement would constitute a governmental taking as defined by law.

(Ord. No. 1445, 5-26-2019)