

Meeting Minutes
Cascade Charter Township
Pathways Committee
Thursday, October 5, 2023
10:00 am
5920 Tahoe Dr

ARTICLE 1. Chair Rissi called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

Members Present: John Driscoll, Mike Reese, Scott Rissi, Kris Taylor, Jeff Coffey, and Township Supervisor Grace Lesperance

Absent: Rik Brown

Others Present: Township Engineer Aric Thorne, Parks and Recreation Director Melanie Manion, Township Manager Jade Smith, Communications Specialist Rich Lakeberg, Management Office Admin Assistant Jessica Stine, and Tom Mulligan of Pedego Grand Rapids

ARTICLE 2. Approve the current Agenda

Motion was made by Member Reese to approve the current Agenda. Supported by Supervisor Lesperance. Motion carried 5 to 0.

Member Coffey arrived at 10:04 am.

ARTICLE 3. Acknowledge visitors and those wishing to speak to non-agenda items.

Scot VanSolkema asked who maintains the sidewalks in the DDA. Director Manion said that Engineer Thorne is addressing the sidewalks and it will cost between \$70,000-\$80,000.

The new Township Manager, Jade Smith, introduced himself to the committee and explained that the township would be liable if anyone was hurt from the cracks in the sidewalk but, since those are paths in the DDA, that is not under the purview of this committee. Member Coffey asked them to check into the pot holes on 36th St and grinding down the large areas.

ARTICLE 4. Approve the minutes of the 9.7.23 Meeting.

Motion was made by Supervisor Lesperance to approve the 9.7.23 meeting minutes as written. Supported by Member Driscoll.

ARTICLE 5. E-bikes and Scooter Conversation (Tom Mulligan, Pedego Grand Rapids)

Tom Mulligan, the owner of Pedego Grand Rapids, a local e-bike and scooter store, requested the Pathways committee discuss e-bikes and scooters on the pathways. He runs an independently owned and operated shop that sells bikes with full-service e-bike repairs and rentals by the day, hour, or weekend.

Mulligan was concerned for the safety of kids and other riders on the trails. He requested the township post guidelines and signage that matches those in neighboring communities. He did not believe an ordinance was necessary but thought that striping the path was the solution; he believed people would be safer on the path if they knew which side they should be on. He also suggested 'speed limit' signs because there are some areas of pathways that he doesn't believe e-bikes belong.

Director Manion explained that Cascade pathways have 'non-motorized' listed in their rules as part of the title but it doesn't state that e-bikes and scooters aren't allowed on

the pathways. She is in favor of the DNR guidelines. Mulligan stated that 'class three' bikes currently aren't allowed on trails due to their speed capabilities.

Member Driscoll brought up the Kent County local sheriff's bike patrol and suggested we check with them about patrolling the pathways; this is a volunteer position.

Class two e-bikes are not permitted on DNR/State linear trails. This is something Ada is still looking into. Director Manion suggested a joint meeting with Ada to discuss rules and ideas.

ARTICLE 6. Road Crossing Update

Director Manion reached out to Wayne Harrall of the Kent County Road Commission regarding potential pathway road crossings and he said they don't typically permit striping on the road, only signs. Ada has installed a crossing like the ones Member Taylor was suggesting and said they will likely allow the striping if it is at an intersection with a traffic light.

Member Reese left at 10:42 am.

ARTICLE 7. 2024 Budget Discussion

Engineer Thorne estimated that the planned pathway reconstruction for 2024 is about 1.97 miles of pathway and still needed to be approved. He is ready to put it out for bid as soon as funding is approved.

Director Manion said that it did not currently look like they would have enough funding to complete year/phase three of the project at the current rate. They will either need grants, fundraising, or a millage renewal.

ARTICLE 8. Any Other Business

Director Manion brought in the MI Trails brochure and asked if the committee thought they should include an ad for Cascade's pathways. The cost is \$400 per year and they previously purchased the ad space every year. This can be useful when applying for grant monies because it shows connecting with other communities.

Manager Smith shared that he didn't think striping of pathways was a good use of funds because they didn't have the intended affect.

ARTICLE 9. Adjournment

Motion was made by Member Taylor to adjourn. Supported by Supervisor Lesperance. Motion carried 5 to 0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:57am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rik Brown, Secretary