

Meeting Minutes
Cascade Charter Township
Pathways Committee
Thursday, October 6, 2022
10:00 am
5920 Tahoe Dr

ARTICLE 1. Manager Swayze called the meeting to order at 10:01 am.

Members Present: John Driscoll, Kris Taylor, Mike Reese, Rik Brown, Scott Rissi, Township Manager (TM) Ben Swayze, Building and Grounds Supervisor Jim MacDonald, Planning Director Brian Hilbrands, Township Engineer Aric Thorne, and Management Office Admin Assistant Jessica Stine

Arrived Late: Jeff Coffey

Members Absent: Township Supervisor Grace Lesperance

ARTICLE 2. Approve the current Agenda

Motion was made by Member Brown to approve the current Agenda. Supported by Member Rissi. Motion carried 5 to 0.

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

There weren't any visitors who wished to speak at this time.

ARTICLE 4. Approval for the Minutes of the 9.1.22 Meeting

Motion was made by Member Brown to approve the 9.1.22 meeting minutes as written. Supported by Member Rissi. Motion carried.

ARTICLE 5. Pathway Committee By-Laws

The committee started with the Parks Committee bylaws and modified them to fit their needs. Their main changes included: changing the term for members to match their term on the committee they are representing and the 'three consecutive absences removal' to a 'reasonable' cause for removal rather than an auto-removal. The Township Board will approve their meeting schedule at their next meeting.

Member Thorne arrived at the meeting.

They also made a change to the order of business from the Parks Committee so that they wouldn't have to amend the bylaws to change the agenda.

Motion by Member Rissi to recommend the Pathways Committee bylaws to the Township Board for approval. Supported by Member Brown. Motion carried 6 to 0.

ARTICLE 6. Condition Assessment

Engineer Thorne walked all of the Township's pathways and created an asset management plan to fix and maintain the existing pathways. He explained it as the 'Cadillac of fixes', not the cheapest, but the best. He thinks they should be able to tap into the Road Commission's discount pricing for crack filling but should be able to fill all of the pathway along Cascade Road for a quarter of a million dollars.

Manager Swayze recommended creating a schedule for crack sealing so that it is done every set number of years in order to maintain the Pathways so they don't continue to degrade and the cracks worsen.

Engineer Thorne said this should be performed every 2-3 years throughout the entire pathway network, but may vary in frequency based on actual conditions. Crack sealing will be one of several means of routine maintenance.

ARTICLE 7. Financial Information

Manager Swayze suggested that they may be able to shift funds from the Township allocation to roads because there were fewer roads that needed repairs than they originally budgeted for. The committee agreed that pathways along Cascade Rd and Buttrick first. They want this project to be completed in two to three years and then they can move on to fixing other pathways and potentially creating new ones in areas that are lacking. Supervisor MacDonald will look into the trees hanging over the pathways that are a safety hazard.

Member Brown motioned to recommend the board authorize Engineer Thorne to request bids for the sections numbered 1, 2, 8, and 9 in the Condition Assessment included in the meeting packet, and for fiscal support from the board on this in 2023. Supported by Member Rissi. Motion carried 6 to 0.

ARTICLE 8. Projects Review

The committee talked about the Cascade Rd Bridge project and how they could make it possible. The Kent County Road Commission (KCRC) said they can fit the project into their 2023 schedule if the project is funded and will cost approximately \$240,000 per side of the bridge. The committee was only interested in adding a path to one side of the bridge at this time because only one side currently has a sidewalk branching off on land.

TM Swayze shared that the Township may be able to use ARPA funds for this if they aren't needed for the Fire Station, but the grant he applied for funding from this project was not approved because the people it would benefit weren't considered a 'disadvantaged group that was disproportionately effected by the pandemic'.

Member Rissi motioned to have the pathway along the north side of the bridge constructed by KCRC. Supported by Member Brown. Motion carried.

ARTICLE 9. Acknowledge visitors and those wishing to speak to non-agenda items.

The committee talked about the proposed pedestrian pathway over the Thornapple River.

ARTICLE 10. Any Other Business

Planning Director Hilbrands had residents that are creating a new private street ask if the Pathways Committee would consider extending the current path to their private street. Member Brown suggested they should hold off on talking about attachments to new developments until a future meeting.

Admin Assistant Stine updated the committee on setting up a Pathways specific email address and the committee decided not to pursue on at that time.

The next meeting will include budget recommendations and updates from Engineer Thorne on pathway progress.

ARTICLE 11. Adjournment

Motion was made by Member Rissi to adjourn. Supported by Member Brown. Motion carried 6 to 0. The meeting was adjourned at 11:27am.