

Meeting Minutes
Cascade Charter Township
Pathways Committee
Thursday, June 1, 2023
10:00 am
5920 Tahoe Dr

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

Members Present: John Driscoll, Mike Reese, Scott Rissi, Rik Brown, Jeff Coffey, Kris Taylor, Building and Grounds Supervisor Jim MacDonald, Planning Director Brian Hilbrands, Township Engineer Aric Thorne, Parks and Recreation Director Melanie Manion, and Management Office Admin Assistant Jessica Stine
Absent: Township Supervisor Grace Lesperance

ARTICLE 2. Approve the current Agenda

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

Member Coffey arrived at the meeting.

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

Scott VanSolkema stated he lives on Orange and uses the paths a lot. He believes the house on Peale and Thornapple River Drive needs a new path. It gets covered with many rocks and is not considered a road by the Road Commission because it isn't wide enough. He suggested making QR signs at historic buildings (such as the house on the corner of Peale and Thornapple River Drive) so that people could scan them with their phones and learn about the history of cascade. This would also be desirable in the new village area.

ARTICLE 4. Approve the minutes of the 4.20.23 Meeting.

Motion was made by Member Reese to approve the 4.20.23 meeting minutes as written. Supported by Member Driscoll.

ARTICLE 5. New Parks Director Overview and Vision Presentation

Director Manion introduced herself, explained the focus of her work with Ottawa County Parks, and shared her love of ornithology.

ARTICLE 6. Pathways Construction Update

Engineer Thorne explained that the pathway construction has been in progress since the first week of May. The path near Thornapple Covenant Church needed repair of the asphalt but the sub structure was too damaged to fix, so an additional sub base was added. A molehill around a drainage pipe was removed and that area will be paved at the end of June. The path on Buttrick will begin construction around the 4th of July and end in August. Member Coffey said they need to talk about future pathway expansion or it will be the death of the area.

ARTICLE 7. Cascade Road Bridge Update

Engineer Thorne presented the proposal accepted by the DDA and Township Board for the modification of the Cascade Road bridge to increase pedestrian safety. Each lane of the bridge would be one foot narrower and a barrier would be placed between the path and the road. Members of the committee disagreed with this plan and requested any

further progress be halted. The committee was less concerned with including a physical barrier to the bridge and more interested in widening the path with a raised railing. They considered holding a special meeting to discuss this item and get more information from the Road Commission.

ARTICLE 8. Safe Routes to School Overview

Due to time constraints, Safe Routes to School will be discussed at the next meeting instead.

ARTICLE 9. Acknowledge visitors and those wishing to speak

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

ARTICLE 10. Any Other Business

Member Taylor suggested identifying trail crossings with signs and painted paths at crosswalks as a future meeting topic.

Crack sealing will be discussed at the next meeting.

Parks and Recreation Director Manion will reach out to Caledonia about coordinating pathway connections.

ARTICLE 11. Adjournment

Motion was made by Member Taylor to adjourn. Supported by Member Reese. Motion carried 6 to 0. The meeting was adjourned at 11:03am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rik Brown, Secretary