

## Meeting Minutes

Cascade Charter Township  
Parks Committee  
Tuesday, February 15, 2022  
8:00 AM  
2870 Jacksmith Ave SE

**ARTICLE 1.** Chairperson Wanty called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.  
Members Present: Joe Engel, Chair Ginny Wanty, Mike Reese, Windy Korstange, and Matt Douglas  
Members Absent: Supervisor Grace Lesperance

Others Present: Interim Planning Director Brian Hilbrands, Rachel Walsh with Troyer Group, B&G Supervisor Jim MacDonald, Manager Ben Swayze, and those listed on the attendance sheet

**ARTICLE 2. Approve the current Agenda**

**Motion was made by Member Engel to approve the current Agenda. Supported by Member Korstange. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

**ARTICLE 3. Approve the minutes of the January 18, 2022 meeting.**

There was discussion as to if the minutes need to be as detailed as they recently have been and it was decided that they would be more of a summarization than a transcript in the future.

**Motion was made by Member Engel to approve the January 18, 2022 meeting minutes. Supported by Member Douglas. Motion carried 5 to 0.**

**ARTICLE 4. Acknowledge visitors and those wishing to speak to non-agenda items.**

There was no one present who wished to speak.

**ARTICLE 5. Strategic Plan Update**

Member Reese provided an update and stated that they are working on setting up focus group meetings. The consultants from Mckenna will come to a meeting (or schedule a workshop outside of the normal meeting time) in March or April to have discussions with the Parks Committee.

**ARTICLE 6. Pathways Discussion**

Manager Swayze passed out current pathway information. The current pathway millage is funded 2018-2027. An ad-hoc citizens pathway committee was formed that helped provide guidance for the millage and proposed pathway projects. The Parks Committee will look forward to meeting the new township employee, the Director of Public Works, who will be overseeing pathways, maintenance, and compliance. Once they are hired, the committee will meet with them to talk about tackling problem areas of the pathway system and address resident's concerns. They will also consider creating a pathways committee at that time.

The bridge over Burton St project was paused due to rising costs but there may now be additional grants/funding to help the township reduce the cost.

The Township Board doubled the pathway maintenance line item this past year with work focusing on the pathways along Thornapple River Drive and Cascade Road.

**ARTICLE 7. Revisit Parks Committee Bylaws**

Members were asked to look at the Parks Committee bylaws, see if they noted anything they think should be changed, and let Chair Wanty know if they would like to assist in the process of re-writing the Park Committee bylaws with Vice-Chair Engel. There was discussion as to if this committee was subject to the Open Meetings Act

**ARTICLE 8. Parks Master Plan Discussion**

There was a higher percentage of Cascade's older residents that responded to the survey than those in younger age groups, in relation to their population in the community. There was discussion as to if they should more directly survey children and/or younger families to see their opinions on what amenities and programming they would find beneficial. It was noted that the demographic response from this survey was very similar to the response received for the Strategic Plan survey. Improving existing parks was a very high priority in the survey results. Trail maintenance, park maintenance, and more amenities for children were also ranked highly as concerns residents had on the survey.

Members are currently working to create a rubric for rating priorities and benefits of properties that the Township could potentially purchase.

**ARTICLE 9. Update on Oak Wilt Situation at Burton Park**

They will begin trenching in the next week or so, weather dependent. There will also be a presentation to the Township Board on February 23rd to show who they want to remove the oak wilt affected trees. The trees will not be removed until November. Access to the trees has been discussed with the neighboring resident so that the machinery can go through their property rather than coming through the park; they are still waiting on the HOA to sign off.

**ARTICLE 10. Submissions for Cascade Spring Newsletter**

Chair Wanty wrote an article for the Spring Newsletter on oak wilt. She also provided information on the garlic mustard pulls that have been organized for May. There will be a dumpster behind the fire department for disposal of garlic mustard.

Chair Wanty encouraged any other interested committee members to write an article for the Summer Newsletter. She also suggested any member that is interested could write a short article for the monthly e-news.

**ARTICLE 11. Bittersweet Flyer**

Chair Wanty went over the information regarding the Invasive Bittersweet workday at Burton Park on Saturday, February 26.

**ARTICLE 12. Old Business**

There was no old business to address.

**ARTICLE 13. Any Other Business**

A resident's vehicle got stuck in the Burton Park parking lot and had to be towed out. They will look into how to solve issues with the Burton Park parking lot at a future meeting.

**ARTICLE 14. Adjournment**

**Motion was made by Member Engel to adjourn. Supported by Member Douglas.  
Motion carried 5 to 0.**

**The Meeting adjourned at 9:36 am.**

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Engel, Secretary