

AGENDA
Cascade Charter Township Pathways Committee
Thursday, April 20, 2023
10:00 am
5920 Tahoe Dr

- ARTICLE 1. **Call the meeting to order**
Record the attendance
- ARTICLE 2. **Approve the current Agenda**
- ARTICLE 3. **Acknowledge visitors and those wishing to speak**
(Comments are limited to five minutes per speaker.)
- ARTICLE 4. **Minutes**
Approve the minutes of the 02.06.23 meeting
- ARTICLE 5. **Update on the 2023 Pathway Maintenance Project** *(Engineer Thorne)*
Township Engineer Thorne will give an update on the approved 2023 Pathway Maintenance/Reconstruction Program
- ARTICLE 6. **Pathway Crack Sealing and Preventative Maintenance** *(Engineer Thorne)*
Township Engineer Thorne will present recommendations on crack sealing and preventative maintenance measures.
- ARTICLE 7. **Discussion of Future Pathway Expansion Plans** *(Members Driscoll/Coffey)*
Hold a discussion on potential long term pathway expansion plans
- ARTICLE 8. **Curb Cuts** *(Member Taylor)*
Discussion on better curb cuts
- ARTICLE 9. **Acknowledge visitors and those wishing to speak**
(Comments are limited to five minutes per speaker.)
- ARTICLE 10. **Any Other Business**
- ARTICLE 11. **Adjournment**

Meeting Minutes
Cascade Charter Township
Pathways Committee
Thursday, February 2, 2023
10:00 am
5920 Tahoe Dr

ARTICLE 1. Chair Rissi called the meeting to order at 10:01 am.

Members Present: John Driscoll, Kris Taylor, Mike Reese, Rik Brown, Scott Rissi, Jeff Coffey

Others Present: Building and Grounds (B&G) Supervisor Jim MacDonald, Planning Director Brian Hilbrands, Township Engineer Aric Thorne, and Management Office Admin Assistant Jessica Stine, and others listed on the sign in sheet

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 Reese. 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 12.1.22 and 12.12.22 Meetings

Motion was made by Member Reese to approve the 12.1.22 meeting minutes as written. Supported by Member Brown. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Member Brown to approve the 12.12.22 meeting minutes as written. Supported by Member Reese. Motion carried.

ARTICLE 5. Guest – Parks Committee Chair Ginny Wanty

Parks Committee Chair Ginny Wanty attended the meeting to talk about the new Parks Director position that will oversee the Parks and Pathways Committees. It will be posted shortly with interviews beginning in the next couple weeks.

Chair Wanty also spoke about the outdoor gathering space project that the library is working on. She suggested Lulu Brown, the Regional Manager II at the Cascade and Caledonia branches of the Kent District Library, be invited to a Pathways meeting to talk about creating a pathway that connects the library to the rest of Cascade's pathway system. The West Michigan Conservation Network (WMCN) was touted as a beneficial resource and there was conversation about members attending a land management plan creation meeting WMCN will be hosting.

The Grand River Greenway Project is another far reaching project in Michigan that Chair Wanty believes Cascade Township should partner on. The project maps are currently in the works but not yet ready to be shared. The project requested \$10 million of ARPA funds and received \$15 million. This included money for trail heads, trail development, tunnels, bridges, and creation of paths. There will be a Kent County Parks Committee meeting on June 22nd where more information will be available.

The WMCN won a Sustain Our Great Lakes (SOGL) grant to clean up invasive species and along the river near Burton St is being considered as a potential cleanup site.

Member Coffey asked if the Parks Committee was prioritizing removal of Oriental Bittersweet. Chair Wanty said that they have prioritized it and WMCN has already planned work days to address Oriental Bittersweet this summer. They are also dealing with Japanese Knotweed and Garlic Mustard.

Hammerhead worms, an invasive species from South Asia, were brought up by Member Coffey as another invasive species that will need to be on naturalist's radar. They hunt other worms, are toxic to animals, and any pieces cut off of them regenerate into entirely new worms.

ARTICLE 6. 2024-2027 Reconstruction Plan

Seal coating on the 36th St to Cahoon pathway was missed on the 2024-2027 Reconstruction Plan, since it is a much newer pathway, so Engineer Thorne will add it in the appropriate year of the plan. Member Brown and the residents of Cascade Woods congratulated Engineer Thorne on his pathway improvement planning progress.

Once approved, there is potential for the reconstruction to begin in March.

Motion was made by Member Brown for Engineer Thorne to update the board on the 2024-2027 Reconstruction Plan. Supported by Member Reese. Motion carried 6 to 0.

ARTICLE 7. Discussion of Future Pathway Expansion Plan

Members shared suggestions for new pathways.

Member Coffey suggested along 28th St and Buttrick from 36th St to Cascade Road where there are many walkers, no shoulder, and the Road Commission has said they couldn't add a shoulder or decreased the speed there, legally. Chair Rissi said that, from Cascade Rd east to Lowell, there is a similar situation.

Chair Rissi suggested the section of path from 28th St from Buttrick to the Lowell bike route. This would connect with the Grand River Greenway and already has many walkers. Member Driscoll said that it was very hilly with many ravines which would make it cost prohibitive. Member Reese suggested connecting via Bolt Dr. instead because that would also connect Peace Park and that is another dangerous area for walkers. Additional discussion ensued regarding the possibility that having a path along Bolt would enable many more walkers to access the Peace Park by walking versus having to drive to the Grand River entrance to the park. Bolt access might also require less parking space at the Grand River spot.

South of Whitneyville Ave and over to 48th St was another of Chair Rissi's suggestions. That curve is considered one of the most dangerous in the state. The state may have to address that curve due to how dangerous it is, in which case it may involve changes to the bridge giving us an opportunity for a safe crossing option without construction of a pedestrian bridge.

Long term, they suggested M-6 to south of Caledonia and Henry B Thornapple but getting to and over 48th St will be the hardest part. Wanty shared that the Caledonia supervisor wants to connect the two townships along the Thornapple.

Member Driscoll suggested prioritizing safety when choosing where to create new paths. This would put areas like 28th St and the southern end of the township higher on the list. Member Coffey believed this would also elevate South Buttrick because it is a very walkable and bikeable section but the bridge is one lane with a 30° turn and is very dangerous.

Planning Director Hilbrands asked if the Laraway Lake path was still a short-term priority. The committee agreed that it was and Planning Director Hilbrands said it would be discussed at the next meeting.

ARTICLE 8. Township Strategic Plan and Parks Master Plan

The Parks Master Plan was completed, so now the township will be able to apply for grant funding; this also applies to the Pathways Committee. The members will work on prioritizing and phasing the sections of new pathway that they believe would be most beneficial. Member Brown urged to committee not to lose sight of their focus on maintenance.

Member Reese explained the Township Strategic Plan and, though it is more focused on parks, there were maps included in the packet that also applied to the Pathways Committee.

ARTICLE 9. Signage

Resident Kathy Taylor suggested adding crossing signs with bright road stripes along 28th St to alert drivers of the pedestrian crossing and protect pedestrians. Chair Rissi asked about pedestrian crossing signs with LED lights being added at some of the more dangerous spots where pathways cross the road. Member Brown suggested the addition of permanent speed check signs along Cascade Rd. Planning Director Hilbrands said he would speak with the Kent County Road Commission and Deputy Dieppa to see what would be allowed.

ARTICLE 10. Acknowledge visitors and those wishing to speak

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

ARTICLE 11. Any Other Business

There may be an updated Pathways map available at the next meeting.

The Laraway Lake path enhancement was brought back up and members were interested in restarting the discussion. Manager Swayze will reach out to them.

ARTICLE 12. Adjournment

**Motion was made by Member Taylor to adjourn. Supported by Member Brown.
Motion carried 6 to 0. The meeting was adjourned at 11:36am.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Rik Brown, Secretary



DRAFT

A

GID: 176
 Length: 884'
 Width: 10'
 Condition: 6

B

GID: 113, 116, 119
 Length: 409'
 Width: 10'
 Condition: 6-7

C

GID: 107-11
 Length: 2699'
 Width: 10'
 Condition: 6-7

E

GID: 524, 540-41
 Length: 1083'
 Width: 10'
 Condition: 6-7

G

GID: 1103-5, 1108, 1114-15,
 1118, 1123, 1132
 Length: 2622'
 Width: 8'
 Condition: 6-7

D

GID: 325-31, 333
 Length: 2736'
 Width: 10'
 Condition: 6

F

GID: 707-08, 745
 Length: 1570'
 Width: 10'
 Condition: 6-7

Crack Sealing

— Candidate Segment



Pathways Crack Sealing Candidate Segment Estimate

Group	Segment	Material	Width	Thickness	Length	Year	Condition	GID	CY
A	Spaulding Ave SE	Asphalt	10	0	884	0	6	176	2024
					0.17 miles			1726 lbs	
							\$	2,589	subtotal
B	Burton St SE	Asphalt	10	0	127	0	7	113	2027
B	Burton St SE	Asphalt	10	0	155	0	6	116	2024
B	Burton St SE	Asphalt	10	0	127	0	6	119	2027
					0.08 miles			798 lbs	
							\$	1,198	subtotal
C	Burton St SE	Asphalt	10	0	617	0	6	107	2027
C	Burton St SE	Asphalt	10	0	286	0	6	108	2027
C	Burton St SE	Asphalt	10	0	710	0	6	109	2027
C	Burton St SE	Asphalt	10	0	540	0	6	110	2027
C	Burton St SE	Asphalt	10	0	546	0	7	111	2027
					0.51 miles			5269 lbs	
							\$	7,904	subtotal
D	Thornapple River Dr SE	Asphalt	10	0	879	0	6	325	2026
D	Thornapple River Dr SE	Asphalt	10	0	540	0	6	326	2026
D	Thornapple River Dr SE	Asphalt	10	0	173	0	6	327	2026
D	Thornapple River Dr SE	Asphalt	10	0	23	0	6	328	2026
D	Thornapple River Dr SE	Asphalt	10	0	572	0	6	329	2026
D	Thornapple River Dr SE	Asphalt	10	0	270	0	6	330	2026
D	Thornapple River Dr SE	Asphalt	10	0	279	0	6	331	2026
D	Thornapple River Dr SE	Asphalt	5	0	250	0	6	333	2026
					0.57 miles			5829 lbs	
							\$	8,744	subtotal
E	Thornhills Ave SE	Asphalt	10	0	311	0	6	524	0
E	Thornhills Ave SE	Asphalt	10	0	209	0	7	540	0
E	Thornhills Ave SE	Asphalt	10	0	563	0	7	541	0
					0.21 miles			2114 lbs	
							\$	3,171	subtotal
F	30th St SE	Asphalt	10	0	41	0	7	707	2025
F	30th St SE	Asphalt	10	0	1179	0	6	708	2025
F	Wycliff Dr SE	Asphalt	10	0	350	0	6	745	2025
					0.30 miles			3065 lbs	
							\$	4,598	subtotal
G	Cascade Township Park	Asphalt	8	0	697	0	6	1103	NA
G	Cascade Township Park	Asphalt	8	0	603	0	6	1104	NA
G	Cascade Township Park	Asphalt	8	0	460	0	6	1105	NA
G	Cascade Township Park	Asphalt	8	0	347	0	7	1108	NA
G	Cascade Township Park	Asphalt	8	0	166	0	7	1114	NA
G	Cascade Township Park	Asphalt	8	0	151	0	7	1115	NA
G	Cascade Township Park	Asphalt	8	0	128	0	6	1118	NA
G	Cascade Township Park	Asphalt	8	0	59	0	7	1123	NA
G	Cascade Township Park	Asphalt	8	0	11	0	6	1132	NA
					0.50 miles			5119 lbs	
							\$	7,678	subtotal
							\$	35,882 Total	

Going forward proposal for Cascade Charter Twp. Pathways Committee

Grand River from existing pathway to Bolt Avenue, with a complete engineering and construction design resolving all easements, utility relocations or adjustments 2023 cost estimates.

This project establishes a non-motorized path to Cascade Twp. Peace Park knowing we still need it to be completed at the actual entrance to the park.

28th St. From Buttrick to Snow Avenue also with complete construction and engineering drawings and all issues resolved.

A completed design of this pathway, the community residents will see that our committee is answering their concerns of safety and give them access to the existing pathway system.

I would like to see these projects “shovel ready”. Knowing that we do not have the economic resources yet, but as Covid money trickles down hopefully monies from the Federal Infrastructure bill trickles down and when we interact with State and Federal officials, we can mention our “shovel ready” projects. Our new US Congress person is a minority member of the House US Infrastructure committee.

To me these projects are truly community infrastructure and green projects.

The next major new construction project should be on the south side of the township going under I-96 and M-6 interchange. This should be pursued, and we should secure all easements needed to reach Cascade Twp. Park. This will give the committee time to establish a pathway route that will provide the community with access all the way to our downtown area.

Knowing that other areas of concern are connectivity to the existing M-6 pathway, the City of Kentwood's pathway system and the Kent County trail plans, plus any other issues that do come up. I hope this is a starting point for future new construction.

When we have a final plan, our proposal will need to be approved by the township board. We will need to ask for project preparedness financing of engineering drawings (to scale), and securing easements. We will be showing the board, we as a committee, are looking into the future. This also will give us a 2023 basepoint for future new construction and continuing maintenance costs so we will have some idea when presenting a millage proposal to the community in 2026-2027.

Finally, our committee work is responding to the wishes and needs of our community, expanding the existing pathway system, safety for our residents, and that our community is a good place to live.