

Minutes

Cascade Charter Township
Pathways Committee
Thursday, March 7, 2024
10:00 am
5920 Tahoe Dr

- ARTICLE I.** Chair Rissi called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.
Members Present: Scott Rissi, John Driscoll, Rik Brown, Mike Reese
Members Absent: Jeff Coffey, Kris Taylor (excused), Supervisor Grace Lesperance (excused)
- Others Present: Parks and Recreation Director Melanie Manion, Township Engineer Aric Thorne, Buildings and Ground (B&G) Supervisor Ryan McCarty, and Planning Admin Assistant Madi Dodge
- ARTICLE II. Approve the current Agenda**
- Motion was made by Member Brown to approve the current Agenda. Supported by Member Reese. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- ARTICLE III. Public Comment**
- Scot Vansolkema (2570 Orange St) raised concern about the deteriorating retaining wall and stairs off the pathway on Thornapple River Drive just passed Shagbark Ave. He viewed this as a safety issue. B&G Supervisor McCarty said the retaining wall is the township's responsibility but was unsure of the stairs.
- ARTICLE IV. Approve the 12/7/23 meeting minutes**
- Member Reese noticed a few instances where “sidewalks” should be changed to “pathways”, specifically in Article 5.
- Chair Rissi suggested an edit in Article 5 to change “certain” to “believed”.
- Motion was made by Member Reese to approve the 12/7/23 meeting minutes with the proposed edits. Supported by Member Driscoll. Motion carried 4 to 0.**
- ARTICLE V. Old Business**
- 1. New maintenance standards for pathways** – Director Manion mapped out the pedestrian pathways in Cascade Township and showed the committee specific areas that will be mowed one mower width on each side. Fire hydrants will be maintained, but weeds around objects such as benches or posts will not be trimmed. Director Manion will be creating formal guidelines for the public to showcase how the pathways are maintained. There will also be an informational article in the newsletter and direct mail to residents affected by the changes.

2. **Cascade pedestrian bridge update** – Engineer Thorne said the plan is to start bidding on the pedestrian bridge improvement in the spring for late summer construction. There will be a concrete barrier implemented on both sidewalks to protect pedestrians from traffic. He is waiting for further updates from consultants.

ARTICLE VI. New Business

1. **2024 Pathway renovations** – Engineer Thorne said they had a bid opening for the pathway project and parking lot renovations at Kent District Library and Township Hall. There were seven bidders in total, with the lowest bid being 25% lower than the estimated price. Director Manion noted that funding for the pathways is dwindling.

2. **Officer election**

Motion was made by Member Reese to have Chair Rissi, Vice Chair Driscoll, and Secretary Brown keep their positions. Supported by Member Driscoll. Motion carried 4 to 0.

ARTICLE VII. Any other business

There was no other business to discuss.

ARTICLE VIII. Adjournment

Motion was made by Member Brown to adjourn the meeting. Supported by Member Reese. Motion carried 4 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rik Brown, Secretary