

CASCADE CHARTER TOWNSHIP
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING
November 3, 2021 at 9:00am
Cascade Township Hall – Large Conference Room
5920 Tahoe Dr. SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Members Present: Supervisor Grace Lesperance, Trustee McDonald, Trustee Shipley

Others Present: Township Manager (TM) Ben Swayze

Members of the Public: Kris Taylor, Resident

ARTICLE 1. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 9:00am

ARTICLE 2. Approval of the Agenda: Motion by Trustee McDonald, Supported by Supervisor Lesperance to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

ARTICLE 3. Approval of the Minutes of the September 1, 2021 Meeting: Motion by Supervisor Lesperance, Supported by Trustee McDonald to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

ARTICLE 4. Discussion of Pathway Projects: TM Swayze reviewed that there are currently 3 pathway projects that are in various stages of planning:

Laraway Lake – Trustee McDonald gave an update on the status of discussions with the DeCamps, whose property is key to developing a feasible pathway connection on Laraway Lake from where the pathway currently ends to Cascade Road. There are three options at varying price levels and varying degrees of impact to the DeCamp property. The plans have been shared with the Kent County Road Commission and they would be supportive of any of them. Next step would be to meet with the DeCamps and discuss the options to see what they may support. Trustee McDonald volunteered to continue those discussions with them as he has been the committee member most in contact with them.

Cascade Road Pedestrian Bridge (over Thornapple River) – Trustee Shipley indicated that he has heard about this need from several residents as the sidewalk on the bridge is not safe due to the proximity to high-speed traffic. Discussion ensued about what side of the bridge a potential pedestrian bridge could be on. Discussion should be had with the KCRC on what they would allow. Supervisor Lesperance indicated she would like to be involved in those discussions. Manager Swayze indicated he would set it up for later this year or early next.

Burton Street Bridge – Manager Swayze reviewed the current project, which was stopped by the Township Board earlier this year due to cost concerns. Manager Swayze indicated that there may be an opportunity to get the Township cost of this project more in line with what was previously budgeted. The grant

program coordinator has indicated there may be an opportunity to split the additional cost at 65/35 (the same breakdown as the original grant) which could add an additional \$650,000 in grant funds. The State of Michigan has also indicated they could partner the project with their 2023 deck replacement project, which could help cover the significant traffic control costs. Discussion ensued. The Committee indicated more details should be brought forward regarding the potential costs savings and additional grant dollars and what the resulting cost of the project to the Township would be.

No Action, Discussion Only

ARTICLE 8. Public Comment:

Kris Taylor – Resident: Mr. Taylor indicated he felt the Township should be investing more money in the repair of the existing pathway system. He and his wife use multiple area pathway systems and feel that the Cascade system is in poor condition. Identified several areas he thought needed the most attention. Discussion among the committee members and Mr. Taylor ensued. TM Swayze indicated he could begin to review areas and provide high-level estimates to the Committee on what some repairs may cost.

ARTICLE 9. Adjournment: *Motion by Trustee McDonald, Supported by Supervisor Lesperance to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 10:13 am.*

Approved by the Infrastructure Committee – TBD