

**Casco Township Parks & Recreation Committee**

**Regular Meeting**

**September 9, 2014**

1. **Call to Order and Roll call:** The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm. Those present were: Bruce Brandon, John Johnson, Josiah Jessup, Tom Storr, Sandra Warren, Pam Blough, and Kathy Brandon. Absent: Louis Howerton, David Dobreff.
2. **Approve Agenda:** There were no additions to the agenda. Agenda approved.
3. **Review and approval of the August 12, 2014 meeting minutes.** These minutes were corrected and approved by all.
4. **Correspondence received:** None
5. **Public Comments:** None. One person present.
6. **Ribbon cutting follow up:** There was a nice article and pictures in the Allegan County News.
7. **Casco Township Nature Preserve Master Plan Update:** The Parks & Recreation Chairman, Bruce Brandon, along with Pam Blough presented the current Master Plan Update to the Board at their regular September meeting. The Board was generally supportive of the Plan. They were very pleased with Tree Inventory & Survey. They were supportive of the removal of dead trees, down limbs and brush that caused a hazard to the public. They also supported the stewardship of maintaining the maple grove. They agree that the Park is "work in progress". Sandra Warren brought important information concerning the importance of dead trees. This supports the philosophy that the trees that will be removed are those that pose a hazard to the public. Standing dead and dying trees, called "snags" or "wildlife trees" are important for wildlife in both natural and landscaped settings.
8. **Blue Star Pathway update:** The County Commissioners will vote at their next meeting September 25, 2014.
9. **Westside County Park Project update:** Bids will be released sometime this fall.
10. **Friends of the Nature Preserve update:** The Board approved the plan suggested that Joe put in the sign posts and the Friends can then mount the signs.
11. **Casco Township Nature Preserve:**
  - a. **Operation and maintenance:** The door on the vault toilet needs to be adjusted again.
  - b. **Maple Grove trees:** The down limbs, brush, and hazardous trees will be removed as soon as funds allow.
  - c. **Grant update:** No news yet.

- d. **Funding source signage:** The Board allowed \$200.00 for this sign.
- e. **Park Ordinance changes:** Do we want to change the opening and closing of the Park to specific times? We will work on this and decide times at the next meeting.

12. **Update from the Township Board Representative:** None

13. **Committee Member Comments:** Josiah Jessup informed the Committee that he has 2 people who are interested in the vacancy on this committee. Allen and Cheri will make this decision.  
Sandra brought in an article on a new tick migrating into our area.

14. **John Johnson made a motion to adjourn** the meeting, seconded by Tom Storr. Meeting adjourned at 7:59.

Minutes respectfully submitted  
Kathy Brandon

