

Casco Township Parks and Recreation Committee
January 13, 2015 Regular Meeting

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair Bruce Brandon at 7:01 pm. Committee members present were: Bruce Brandon, Louis Howerton, John Johnson, Josiah Jessup, Johanan Jessup, Sandra Warren, Pam Blough and Kathleen Brandon. Absent, none.
2. **Reappointment of Louis Howerton** to the Committee. 1 seat remains open.
3. **Election of 2015 officers:** A motion was made by Sandra Warren to nominate the officers from 2014 this motion was 2nd by Josiah Jessup, motion carried.

Officers for 2015 are:

Bruce Brandon-Chair

Louis Howerton-Vice Chair

John Johnson- Secretary

Committee Members are:

Sandra Warren

Josiah Jessup

Johanan Jessup

4. **Approval of the Agenda:** The agenda was approved with no additions or subtractions.
5. **Review and approval of the December 9, 2014 meeting minutes:** Chairman Bruce Brandon made a motion to accept the December 9, 2014 minutes as provided with spelling corrections. Josiah Jessup 2nd the motion. All member agreed, motion carried.
6. **Correspondence received:** None.
7. **Public Comments:** A Casco Township resident, Judy Graff and her dog Bo were present. Judy lives on 850 Lakeshore Dr. S.H. She made a request to the Committee to consider leashed dogs be allowed to walk the Nature Preserve with their owners during the season between Labor Day until Memorial Day.
The Committee discussed this at length.
Also present was Debbie Wilson, from across the street. She was invited by Sandra Warren to observe and see if would like to get involved on one of the Township committees.
8. **Blue Star Pathway Update:** The group had a meeting on Dec. 10th 2014. Bruce attended and reported they were working on easements. He had no other news.
9. **West Side County Park Project Update:** Bids are out and work will begin in the Spring was reported by Bruce Brandon.
10. **Friends of the Nature Preserve Update:** No communication, but a focus point for spring Beach and Park Clean Up

- 11. Parks Ordinance Update:**
Next month we should move up on our agenda getting our Ordinance wording ready to go for the March Township Board meeting. Changes to be made on open and close times of the Park also work on the dog issue as well. Also Bruce and Pam sit down with the new Deputy to talk about enforcement of the Park rules. All to go on one Ordinance at one time.
- 12. Casco Township Nature Preserve:**
 - a. Operation and maintenance:** The nonfunctioning vault toilet hinge was reported to the Township Board. It was discussed that Bruce send a monthly email to Allan as a follow up to projects that need to be completed. Bruce will talk to Allen. Snow removal seems to be going very well.
 - b. CZM Parking Lot Grant Application Submittal:** Pam resubmitted the DNR Grant to the Coastal Zone Management Grant that would require a 50/50 match. The Township Board did not want to increase the amount of match but would support the Grant with the same amount of match as the DNR Grant. So we reduced the project down to accommodate a \$24,000 match. That would make a \$49,000 Grant application. We will have a gravel parking lot keeping about the same number of parking spaces. Pam had the final document available for members to look at. We should hear some initial review comments in about 3 months. The Grant would be available in the fall of 2015. Official notification in about 6 months.
- 13. 1st Street Beach Handrail and Steps:** nothing new, spring project.
- 14. Anonymous donation for the Nature Preserve in the amount of \$500.** Members should think about this and propose some type of capital development project for this donation.
- 15. Update from Township Board Representative:** Josiah Jessup reported that they were working on hiring of the new Township Deputy. He is hoping for a candidate for the next Board meeting. A vehicle will also need to be purchased. Laketown Township will have a 4x4 available in March which may be a possibility. Spring for Maintenance building.
- 16. Committee Member Comments:** Pam noted the change in date for the Township Board meeting in February, it will be the 26th. Sandra had a correction on the Calendar which was corrected. John suggested to add the dog discussion to the agenda for February.
- 17. Meeting adjourned:** John made a motion to adjourn, 2nd by Josiah. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted:
Kathleen Brandon