

Casco Township Parks & Recreation Committee

Special Meeting, June 10, 2014 at 6pm at the Nature Preserve

Parks & Recreation Committee Members, including, Bruce Brandon, Louis Howerton, John Johnson, Dave Dobreff, Sandy Warren, along with Pam Blough, met at the Casco Township north property. They were there to evaluate the condition of the trees. It was found that between 16 and 19 trees are dead or in bad shape. A number of fallen limbs need to be cut up and taken out. The dead trees, however were not marked in any way.

The discussion, after arrival back at the Township Hall, then turned to the question of "is this part of the Nature Preserve, or is it a Park. There were many comments concerning varying thoughts of some members seeing it as part of the Nature Preserve, and some seeing that it is a park. Where are we going with this park? What is our intent, do we need to come up with a Master Plan? What will this Park look like in 10 to 15 years?

It was finally decided that the Board be the one to decide if that area is part of the Preserve, or part of the more developed Park. Bruce will take our comments to the next Board meeting. Hopefully they will give us some guidance as to how we should continue. Pam will bring the Master Plan to the next meeting. John Johnson made a motion to adjourn this meeting, 2nd by David Dobreff, all agreed, motion to adjourn carried.

Casco Township Parks & Recreation Committee

Regular Meeting June 10, 2014

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** The regular meeting was called to order at 8:08 pm. Present were Bruce Brandon, Louis Howerton, John Johnson, Josiah Jessup, Dave Dobreff, Tom Storr, Sandra Warren, Pam Blough and recording secretary Kathy Brandon.
2. **Agenda Approved:**
3. **Review and approval of the May 13, 2014 minutes:** The minutes were corrected. A motion was made by Sandra, seconded by Louis that the minutes be approved as corrected.
4. **Correspondence received:** None
5. **Public Comment:** No public in attendance.
6. **Blue Star Pathway update:** The County Parks and Recreation Committee passed the proposal of phase two, (8 to 1) recommending the Trail to the County Board.
7. **Westside County Park Project:** No changes
8. **Review of the existing Special Events Policy and Park Ordinances:** This policy was corrected and changes were made. A motion was made by Sandy to accept the revised Special Events Policy, seconded by Louis. This motion passed by all. The Park Ordinances will be brought up at a later meeting. Bruce will get these printed and placed into the information holders. Also the emergency numbers.
9. **Friends of the Nature Preserve:** no reports

10. Casco Township Nature Preserve: a. The 2014 MNRTF parking lot grant application has a new grant staff person who will be doing a site visit on June 11. b. **Costal Management Grant** project update. The walkway is in and landscape restoration under and around the stairs has been done. Pam will be taking photos and putting together the final Grant reimbursement forms. She has also been asked to do a write up of our project with photos they can feature. c. Ribbon Cutting will take place on August 12, 2014 at 6pm. d. The ADA accessible toilet has been ordered and pad has been poured. G. Beach rules and signage are in, Pam walked the site with Joe and decided where each post and sign will go in.

11. Invasive Species Policy: no change

12. Update from our Township Board Representative: Annual Meeting is Monday June 23, 2014 at 7pm.

13. Committee member comments:

Dave Dobreff mentioned the liability issues. His thought was, that business premises liability is almost nonexistent.

Sandy Warren also mentioned a Sea Grant that would provide Life saving devices. Pam mentioned she could not find any information on that Sea Grant. She also mentioned that the Senior Citizen group walks in the Nature Preserve and does a brown bag lunch every Wednesday. Some area churches are getting together to do roast beef dinners every month. She also brought an article from the South Haven Tribune concerning a road end lawsuit.

John Johnson informed the committee that Allegan County Enviromental Health Office will doing “some” beach water sampling. The State monies would cover 3 beaches every other week. A letter requesting this service for our beach to be sent to the Environmental Health Office would be prudent.

14. A motion to adjourn was made by John Johnson to adjourn, seconded by Josiah Jessup. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes by: Kathy Brandon

Park Secretary