

# Casco Township Parks and Recreation Committee

## December 9, 2014 Regular Meeting

1. **Call to order and Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bruce Brandon at 7:02 pm. Committee members present were: Bruce Brandon, John Johnson, Sandra Warren, Pam Blough, Johanan Jessup, and Kathy Brandon. Those absent were: Louis Howerton, and Josiah Jessup.
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** The Agenda was approved with no additions or deletions.
3. **Expiring Committee Member Terms:** Expiring on December 31, 2014 are Louis Howerton and Tom Storr. Louis was convinced to stay on for next term or until he has to leave.
4. **Review and Approval of the November 11, 2014:** Committee Members approved these minutes with no corrections or additions except for spelling corrections. John made the motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sandra, minutes approved.
5. **Correspondence received:** Bruce received an email notice, dated December 9, 2014 concerning at meeting to be held on December 11, 2014 by the Blue Star Bike Path. Bruce will attend and report back to the Committee at the January meeting.
6. **Public Comments:** No Public present.
7. **Blue Star Pathway Update:** Refer to number 5, correspondence received. Bruce will forward the email to Allan.
8. **West Side County Park Project Update:** No new news.
9. **Friends of the Nature Preserve Update:** Bruce stated that we also have maintenance to do at the Nature Preserve as well as other Casco Park Properties. Judy Graff had received a letter from a property owner concerning the condition of the First Street beach access stairway. Bruce visited the site and confirmed that they could stand to be power washed and could possibly need a new handrail. Bruce also mentioned that at the Preserve Beach there had been a lot of erosion and lots of washed in debris all along the beach. Pam suggested that this would be a great targeted activity for the Friends Group. We will have to wait and see what the Lake will do with this in the spring. Pam also talked about a Great Lakes Cleanup Day, sponsored by the Alliance of the Great Lakes.
10. **Park Ordinance Update:** This is "on Hold" until the first of 2015.
11. **Casco Township Nature Preserve:**
  - a. Operation & Maintenance: Allan changed the gate timing. Bruce thought it is now open at 8am and closes at 6:30 pm.
  - b. Vault toilet hinge: Bruce checked the hinge and found it to be adjustable. It does need to be adjusted so that it closes properly. Bruce will talk with Joe about getting it done.
  - c. Maple Grove Tree Maintenance: No update.
  - d. Parking Lot Grant: Pam informed us that we did not make the DNR list for the Grant. One way to fund additional parking, would be to apply for the Coastal Zone Management Grant. This is a 50/50 match Grant. We would need to cut back the amount of money to apply for. We could do this by putting in a gravel lot instead of a paved one.

Using less formal walkways and fewer of them would also help.

More ADA parking could be utilized at the lot we have now. The Coastal Zone Management Grant is a bit more receptive to projects of this type. We would need to pass a resolution of support for this Grant and take it to the Board at its meeting December 10, 2014. The Grant Application is due on December 31, 2014.

Sandra Warren made a motion to support the Resolution as read, seconded by John Johnson. A roll call vote was taken. Bruce Brandon, yes. John Johnson, yes. Sandra Warren, yes. Johanan Jessup, yes.

The Park Committee Members recommend a resolution of support to apply for the Coastal Zone Management Grant.

e. Funding Sources Sign at Preserve: No action

- 12. Update from the Township Board Representative:** A message was relayed from Josiah Jessup to Johanan, that the New Storage addition will be started in the spring. The Allegan County Road Commission will be trimming tree along Blue Star Hwy. as they have the time needed.  
The Park Stairway Opening pictures did make the Casco Township News Letter that went out with tax statements.
- 13. Committee Member Comments:** Sandra Warren mentioned that the South Haven Tribune had an article that the South Haven City Council authorized their staff to seek a \$100,000.00 State Coastal Zone Management Grant for a pathway and barrier free kayak and canoe launch at Black River Park. Competition for that same Grant as well.  
Bruce also observed that new planting were done around the Township where trees had died. The trees were transplanted in the fall of 2013, a few did not survive.  
No other comments.
- 14. John Johnson made a motion to adjourn,** second by Johanan, approved by all. Meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted:

Resolution attached:

Kathleen Brandon

