

Casco Township Parks and Recreation Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 11th, 2025

1. **Call to Order & Roll Call:** Meeting called to order at 7:00pm
Committee members present: Don Kuick, Andy Litts, Paul Macyauski, Mary Campbell, Libby Catt, Kelly Hecker, Matt Super and Debbie Weaver
2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **Approval of the January 14th, 2025 Minutes:** Kelly motioned to approve. Paul support. All in favor.
4. **Correspondence received:** Paul presented an email from Kevin Stufflebeam regarding driveway along 1st Street that will be discussed further down on the agenda.

Don heard from his wife that a group of single elderly women would like to have better visibility in Nature Preserve and know the distance walked along the path.
5. **Public Comment:** none.
6. **Budget Review and Planning for 2025:** Mary presented account transactions from 7/1/23 – 12/31/24. Committee can create line item budget for approval by board.
7. **Review Annual Maintenance Schedule and Activities:** Committee reviewed annual maintenance schedule & activities month by month. There was collective uncertainty about burning old grass growth on wildflower peninsula in Nature Preserve. Kelly will contact SW Mich Land Conservancy to find out about old growth burning. The committee will invite Brian Ridley to come to April Parks' meeting to go over maintenance checklist.
8. **First Street:** email from Kevin Stufflebeam requesting easement for a driveway entrance off 1st Street going across township/park property and landscaping. Committee is not in support of recommending an approval for the requested plan.
9. **Maple Grove Property:** \$2,900 quote from LRE for wetland delineation, hydrogeology report, and impact analysis.

Motion: Andy motioned to recommend that the township spend \$2,900 for wetland delineation by LRE. Debbie support. All in favor. ***Motion passed.***

Bathroom permit is resolved.

Fundraising ideas were discussed. Andy reminded the group to discuss ideas at meetings rather than through nonpublic channels like text or email strings. Don presented idea to sell trees at Grand Opening for Maple Grove. Township would need to buy trees and sell at a markup. Andy stated that he would like to see fundraisers that don't involve the township fronting a significant cost.

Mary reported that Julie Cowie has been in contact with Allegan County Community Foundation, they might have access to fundraising. Andy questioning who has resources to manage a fundraiser like this. United Way is another possible group. There is interest in creating a subcommittee to talk with ACCF and United Way – Debbie, Mary, Allan, & Julie to comprise committee. Kelly also interested as schedule allows.

Grand Opening for the park. Paul proposing late June/early July. Committee decided on Sunday, June 29th, 2025. Coordinator of the grand opening is yet to be determined. Ideas included an ice cream social. Must have design for beach access and fundraising group in place and ready to go.

10. Nature Preserve: Consider snow plowing the pathway during winter. Don sees tinderbox of understory. There are trail cameras in place that add to safety.

11. Township Hall: none

12. Board Update: No board update

13. Round Table: Matt – keep meeting business at meeting. Paul – he and Libby looked at undercut on peninsula, undercut about 6" in some spots. Will need to redo fence once weather warms. Mary – invasive species management grant info from Ottawa County, will share with Don to reach out to her. Libby – none. Kelly – none. Debbie – none. Andy – none.

14. Adjournment: Adjourned at 8:55pm

Next meeting date set for Tuesday, March 11th, 2025 at 7:00pm at Casco Township Hall.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Kelly Hecker