

Casco Township Parks and Recreation Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2022

1. **Call to Order & Roll Call:** meeting called to order at 7:10 pm at Casco Township Hall.
Committee members present: Andy Litts, Paul Macyauski, Debbie Weaver, and Don Kuick.
Members absent: Heidi Frasure and Matt Super.
Others Present: Kathy Stanton (assistant clerk) and Kelly Hecker (recording secretary).
2. **Approval of Agenda:** no changes proposed. Agenda approved by all.
3. **Approval of the January 11th, 2022 Minutes:** Don motioned to approve. 2nd by Andy. Corrections made. Approved by all
4. **Correspondence:** Andy received an email from an outdoor climbing wall vendor. Information shared with committee. Andy will respond to the vendor to inquire about their offerings.
5. **Public Comment:** none
6. **First Street:** Andy suggested starting off the new year with goals for each of our parks. Improvements made to First Street park in the past 18 months. Committee agrees on maintenance – sand between paver bricks, fixing first 3 steps (previously approved by board), rose bush trimming. Paul will ask Karen to complete rose shrub trimming now, and will remind Davis Landscaping of contracted stair repair for bottom 3 stairs. Paver maintenance done as needed. Arborvitae are getting hit hard by deer.
7. **Maple Grove Property:** Update from Pam Blough - 5-year recreation plan submitted to the state. DNR will be reviewing. January 2022 approved minutes need to be submitted to Pam Blough; Kelly will send to her. Awaiting grant agreement from the state which will require action by the township board. Required property map is already prepared. Construction design will start soon. Bidding in fall to early winter with construction starting in 2023.

The committee discussed ideas for specific goals for the Maple Grove property:

- Mowing – put schedule together (mowed twice in 2021), mow as needed to keep weeds & ticks controlled;
 - Take down trees while ground is frozen. Committee agreed to tag 10-12 dead/dying trees to be removed and to clean up some of the buffer between Maple Grove & Nature Preserve including big tree trunks/stumps. Trees in construction area are to be taken out during construction project.
 - Sycamores along road (?) – 2.5-3” trees. Plant 50’ apart 5-6 trees in parking area. Don and Debbie will bring estimates on trees, deer protection, and maintenance (watering/fertilizing 3x in year following planting) to March meeting.
8. **Nature Preserve:** Tasks for the year:
 - Spring cleanup – power wash concrete pads & furniture, power sweep the path, edges of path, benches & picnic table, any garbage, sweeping the trail. Do we make this a community event? Do we include the installation of 2 barbeque grills? If making a community event, publish on website and FB Friends of Nature Preserve.

APPROVED

- Andy will get bid on power sweeping & Sealing path this year
- Maintain outhouse
- Community flower/Bulb planting community event? – daffodils, wildflowers - plant in field and in southwest corner along path by house
- Community garden at township hall?

9. **Miami Park:** Debbie gave update on Soil Erosion Committee activity & Lakeshore Academy. The main take-aways have been long term planning, resiliency, and stabilization. Debbie will make a summary & share with this committee.

10. **Board Update:** none

11. **Round Table:** Don – maintenance plan (bi-weekly starting once park is done) & what is budget & expenditures, Budget review for 2021. Andy – none. Paul – suggested inviting SHARA to do a 15-minute presentation regarding maintenance on the parks. Kelly – supportive of community events at Nature Preserve; Debbie - none

12. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:17pm.

Next meeting is Tuesday, March 8th, 2022 at 7:00pm at Casco Township Hall.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Kelly Hecker