

Casco Township Parks and Recreation Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 1st, 2025

1. **Call to Order & Roll Call:** Meeting called to order at 7:03pm.
Committee members present: Don Kuick, Andy Litts, Mary Campbell, Libby Catt, Kelly Hecker, Matt Super and Debbie Weaver
Committee members absent: Paul Macyauski
Guests present: Brian Ridley
2. **Approval of Agenda**
3. **Approval of the March 11th, 2025 Minutes:** Debbie motioned to approve meeting minutes. Matt support. No discussion. All in favor. Minutes approved.
4. **Correspondence received:** Andy received emails from a University of Michigan graduate student, Amy Van Zanen, who is conducting a survey with the Cooperative Institute for Great Lakes Research and from The Allegan County Parks, Recreation, and Tourism.

Debbie has been in contact with Allegan Tech Center regarding possible contract with them to build bike racks.

5. **Public Comment:** None.
6. **First Street:** No report.
7. **Nature Preserve:** Andy, Don, Debbie, and Libby walked the park with Brian Ridley to survey and discuss maintenance needs in park.

Andy motioned to recommend up to \$1,500 be spent to fix fencing (to include material and labor). Support from Debbie. Discussion followed. Matt stated that he wants to see a program and plan in place for spending money and that the piecemeal approach should stop. He suggested we have a special meeting to establish a budget. He also stated there are several dangerous trees that need to be taken down. The committee digressed to reviewing monthly expenses. Motion died on table.

Current maintenance needs include powerwashing the walkway in the Nature Preserve, repairing the split rail fence along the bluff and along Blue Star Highway, and repairing and repainting the park entrance sign.

Mary will contact Mike Kiefer for a sign repair/repainting quote.

Don questioned whether we have bids coming for tree removal. Debbie and Don both volunteered to walk the park together and mark trees that pose a current hazard.

Motion: Debbie motioned to recommend the board spend up to \$3,500 to cover the maintenance costs of powerwashing the walkway, concrete pads, and tables in the nature preserve, repairing the split rail fence along the bluff and Blue Star Hwy, and for sign maintenance. Mary supported the motion. No further discussion. All in favor. ***Motion passed.***

8. **Maple Grove Property:** No update on wetland designation timeline.

Kelly held open house subcommittee meeting in March which was attended by Libby Catt, Cheri Brenner, and Julie Cowie. It was decided that since the primary reason for the open house is to initiate fundraising for beach access, the two essential components for the open house are an established fiduciary for receiving donations and a plan for beach access. The subcommittee's assessment is that with neither of these being yet established, it is highly unlikely the open house will be able to take place at the end of June 2025.

Motion made: *Kelly motioned that the committee recommend the township enter into a contract with the Allegan County Community Foundation to serve as a fiduciary for the township's beach access fundraising efforts. Motion supported by Debbie.* Committee discussed need for a high level narrative for the purpose of the project. Kelly will work on this for the May meeting. There was also mention of establishing a 'Friends of Casco Nature Preserve'; this will be revisited in the future. All in favor. **Motion passed.**

9. **Budget Review:** Committee reviewed expenses 3/1-3/31/25. Need to establish spending budget for 2025-2026. Will revisit at May meeting.
10. **Township Hall:** no discussion.
11. **Board Update:** Board approved \$500 for bulb order.
12. **Round Table:** Don – none. Matt – none. Mary – none. Libby – none. Kelly – schedule conflict for the May meeting, unlikely able to attend. Debbie – none. Andy – none.
13. **Public Comment:** None.
14. **Adjournment:** Adjourned at 9:10pm.

Next meeting date set for Tuesday, May 13th, 2025 at 7:00pm at township hall.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Kelly Hecker