

**Meeting Minutes**  
Cascade Charter Township  
Pathways Committee  
Thursday, September 7, 2023  
10:00 am  
5920 Tahoe Dr

**ARTICLE 1.** Chair Rissi called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Members Present: John Driscoll, Mike Reese, Scott Rissi, Kris Taylor, Rik Brown, and Township Supervisor Grace Lesperance

Absent: Jeff Coffey

Others Present: Planning Director Brian Hilbrands, Township Engineer Aric Thorne, Parks and Recreation Director Melanie Manion, Interim Township Manager Ted Andrzejewski, Communications Specialist Rich Lakeberg, and Management Office Admin Assistant Jessica Stine

**ARTICLE 2. Approve the current Agenda**

**Motion was made by Member Brown to approve the current Agenda. Supported by Supervisor Lesperance. Motion carried 6 to 0.**

**ARTICLE 3. Acknowledge visitors and those wishing to speak to non-agenda items.**

There weren't any visitors who wished to speak at that time.

**ARTICLE 4. Approve the minutes of the 7.6.23 Meeting.**

**Motion was made by Member Driscoll to approve the 7.6.23 meeting minutes as written. Supported by Supervisor Lesperance.**

**ARTICLE 5. Pathways Construction Update**

Engineer Thorne explained that the top course and wear course were completed the previous day and cleanup/restoration will begin shortly. He will do a walkthrough once it is complete to confirm everything is up to the township's standards.

Member Taylor was concerned with the stones spilling onto the trail on Cascade Rd. Director Manion said they need new equipment to remove stones from the pathway. Member Rissi asked if the county would remove the stones since their work caused them to spill onto the pathway. Engineer Thorne said he would ask the county and potentially check with the contractor but the county's equipment would likely throw stones like the township's equipment. He suggested calling Sanisweep if the county won't remove them. He explained that the 'chip seal' process consists of spraying an asphalt emulsion and dumping on top so that cars pack it down. There likely won't be an additional layer of sealant on top of that.

Engineer Thorne will make sure the planned pathway replacement budget is included in next month's packet.

**ARTICLE 6. Cascade Road Bridge Update**

Spalding DeDecker is working with the Kent County Road Commission (KCRC) and a meeting with both organizations and the township will take place later in September. Construction should be able to take place in spring of 2023. They are currently

discussing lighting and design. It will likely take six to eight weeks to complete construction.

**ARTICLE 7. I-96 Pedestrian Bridge Update**

Burton St will be resurfaced in September. KCRC and Spalding DeDecker are more interested in installing a pre-fabricated bridge than the design Fishbeck created. They are looking into reallocation of funds for the project. There is a federal 'connection community' grant, through the Department of Transportation, for up to five million dollars, but it requires an 80/20 match.

There was discussion as to if it would be a three-season or four-season bridge as snow can be easily blown off a bridge because it will go into the river but a bridge over an expressway wouldn't allow snow to be blown out onto the road.

**ARTICLE 8. Acknowledge visitors and those wishing to speak**

Scot Vansolkema spoke about the pathway near Peace St where a section washed out and suggested adding a device akin to cattle guards. The path is set to be redone in 2026. He also suggested the bridge over the expressway be grated so that the snow would fall through onto the highway rather than accumulating on the path.

**ARTICLE 9. Any Other Business**

Member Brown expressed interest in striping the pathways so that residents would stay to one said. Member Taylor didn't believe this was a viable solution.

Member Brown requested a permanent speed sign be added to the downhill section of Cascade Rd. Members suggested using the one that can be relocated throughout the township but Engineer Thorne stated that those signs look cheap and shouldn't be permanently left in one area. He suggested getting a MEDC certified sign. Supervisor Lesperance asked Engineer Thorne to check into temporary/removable speed bumps and was told that they aren't permitted per the ordinance.

Member Rissi brought forward a concern that there is a tree limb east of Wycliff Trailhead Park that is near a cable line. Director Manion said that Ryan McCarty from B&G contacted Consumers Energy and hadn't received a response. Member Rissi suggested she contact Comcast because that is who he believed the line belonged to. He said that there were also spots in Hidden Hills near 36<sup>th</sup> St that could become a problem if they aren't trimmed.

Director Manion gave a shoutout to the Buildings and Grounds crew for taking care of over 20 damaged trees after the recent storm.

**ARTICLE 10. Adjournment**

**Motion was made by Member Taylor to adjourn. Supported by Supervisor Lesperance. Motion carried 6 to 0. The meeting was adjourned at 11:07am.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Rik Brown, Secretary