

**Meeting Minutes**  
Cascade Charter Township  
Pathways Committee  
Thursday, December 1, 2022  
10:00 am  
5920 Tahoe Dr

**ARTICLE 1.** Chair Rissi called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

Members Present: John Driscoll, Kris Taylor, Mike Reese, Rik Brown, Scott Rissi, Township Manager (TM) Ben Swayze, Building and Grounds (B&G) Supervisor Jim MacDonald, Planning Director Brian Hilbrands, Township Engineer Aric Thorne, and Management Office Admin Assistant Jessica Stine  
Absent: Township Supervisor Grace Lesperance and Jeff Coffey

**ARTICLE 2. Approve the current Agenda**

**Motion was made by Member Brown to approve the current Agenda. Supported by Member Driscoll. Motion carried 5 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 this time.

**ARTICLE 4. Approval for the Minutes of the 11.3.22 Meeting**

**Motion was made by Member Driscoll to approve the 11.3.22 meeting minutes as written. Supported by Member Brown. Motion carried.**

**ARTICLE 5. 2024-2028 Reconstruction Program**

The initial budget review for 2023 was approved. The committee will need to set which years repaving of the entire pathways system will take place and it will have to be before the end of 2028 when the millage expires.

Member Taylor stated that Cascade Rd, Buttrick, and Spaulding are some of the oldest paths. Engineer Thorne said that Cascade Rd and Spaulding are some of the worst sections remaining to schedule and they may be good to focus on next. TM Swayze shared that all of the paths are of similar age and were built within three to four years of each other.

Chair Rissi asked if they should repair groups similar in size to the large one being completed in 2023 or if they should stagger the large sections and look for potential funding to offset the cost to the Township. TM Swayze recommended staggering the large funding requests as well as looking for outside funding.

Member Reese suggested completing smaller pathway restorations in the years they aren't requesting large amounts of funding from the board. He thought Spaulding may be a good choice for one of the lower funding times so that the residents can still see there is progress being made. TM Swayze said that the committee will be able to fund \$400,000-\$600,000 of repairs each year, without funding from other sources, if they aren't acquiring or building any new trails in those years.

Member Taylor asked if the committee could issue bonds for the maintenance, since that's how the construction of the pathways was originally funded. TM Swayze advised

against issuing bonds because they aren't currently cost effective with the interest rate being so high.

The committee may request the DDA address pathway maintenance in groups 12 and 13 of the Pathway Asset Management Plan (PAMP) since they are located in the DDA district. Group 14 runs through Cascade Rec Park, so they may request the Parks Committee address that group.

Fixing Laraway Lake (group 5 of the PAMP) and Spaulding (group 3) were proposed by Member Reese as 2024 projects. TM Swayze said that he is more optimistic about repairing/adding to the path near Laraway Lake than adding a path leading into Watermark, but that will require moving the road and can be done as a separate project. Chair Rissi believed it made sense to wait until after adding the path to move the road. Member Reese shared that he thought moving the pathway first would ignite residents desire to move the road. TM Swayze will find out when the County plans to redo that road as it may decrease the capital output required of the Township. He believes that the Road Commission would cover the cost of repairing the road and then the Township would only have to pay for the cost of the physical path.

Member Brown wanted to complete as many repairs as the committee could, as quickly as they could because the survey showed that residents have heightened interest in pathway repairs right now.

**ARTICLE 6. Projects Review**

The committee talked about the path near Laraway Lake and the resident's interest in it, but they are unwilling to consider adding a portion of the path that leads into Watermark unless their HOA expresses interest and is willing to work with the Township.

The second step for the committee will be looking into expanding the pathways, determining where the new paths system will lead, and budgeting the cost for their maintenance and expansion. This will need to be completed before a new pathways' millage is proposed.

Chair Rissi and Planning Director Hilbrands have met to make a map showing possible extensions of the current pathways but they want to hold off on these ideas until the current pathways are repaired and/or replaced.

**ARTICLE 7. 2023 Reconstruction Bids**

Members planned an additional meeting to discuss the pathway reconstruction bids that would be coming in by December 8<sup>th</sup>. The meeting will take place on the morning of December 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am in the Township's large conference room. Chair Rissi will be unable to attend and excused from this meeting.

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

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

**ARTICLE 9. Any Other Business**

There was not any other business to discuss at that time.

**ARTICLE 10. Adjournment**

**Motion was made by Member Brown to adjourn. Supported by Member Taylor.  
Motion carried 5 to 0. The meeting was adjourned at 10:53am.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Rik Brown, Secretary