

COMMUNITY GREENWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WATEFORD
WATERFORD TWP PUBLIC LIBRARY – STUDY ROOM
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2025 @ 6PM

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Roman Wasylkevych, Jacquelynn Brown, Robert Swartz, Marie Hauswirth

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Jim Powers

OTHERS PRESENT

Debra Hayden-Schmid

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Wasylkevych called the meeting to order at 6:07PM

Roll call to confirm who was present

1. Approve Agenda

Agenda for March 19, 2025

Moved by Swartz

Seconded by Hauswirth

RESOLVED to approve the March 19, 2025 agenda, as printed

Motion carried unanimously

2. Approve Minutes

Minutes for January 22, 2025

Moved by Swartz

Seconded by Hauswirth

RESOLVED to approve the January 22, 2025 minutes, as printed

Motion carried unanimously

3. Website Updates, and page update ownership assignments

3.1 Contact Us page: Wasylkevych reports no further input from Contact Us page at this time.

4.0 Riverwalk Site Plan page : will be updated as part of the Parks Mapping project (see below).

4.1 Three posters to direct Riverwalk concerns to the Greenways Contact Us page were printed. Due to a printing error, we have nine of them. Discussion on how to utilize posters.

4.1.1 Thank you Jacquelynn for completing the final presentation of the poster.

4.1.2 Two copies of the poster are displayed on the Riverwalk information board. Ideas to display the poster at the Drayton Plains Nature Center, Rotary Park, Town Hall, the phone booth & other places were discussed.

4.1.3 Work with Waterford Parks & Recreation to promote the Riverwalk, including advertising it in their Brochure & Lifetime Recreation brochure.

4.1.4 Discussed having printable copies of the poster on hand.

4.2 Request to have the graphic as a link near the top of the CGAC web page.

5 Status of Riverwalk Extension to Drayton Plains Nature Center (AnglinCivil general contractor)

5.1 Construction schedule seems to be on track to finish in June 2025 (restoration, seeding, close-out). A Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting ceremony is scheduled for June 28th, 2025 at 11am. Meeting location will be in the Community of Christ church parking lot at 1990 Crescent Lake Road, Waterford, MI 48327.

5.2 However, the heavy equipment spring thaw weight restriction which began March 3rd has delayed the work by a few weeks.

5.3 Both bridge foundations have been poured, a temporary bridge to facilitate the east-side bridge access has been built, and the permanent bridge should be installed in March. Estimated completion date is 3rd week of June, 2025.

6.0 **America in Bloom** bids for Riverwalk Extension tree planting were opened.

6.1 There were nine bidders; the winner was Precision Landscaping from Casco, MI from St Clair County.

6.2 They will coordinate with the AnglinCivil project for Riverwalk Green Barrier installation prior to the Grand Opening.

7.0 **Grand Opening:** begin planning the Grand Opening for Saturday, June 28, 2025 at 11am.

7.1 Event does not appear to be delayed. However, it may be delayed to accommodate the completion of the Riverwalk Connector and/or any extension construction project slippage (would be best to showcase a completed end-to-end project).

7.2 Now that significant construction has begun, we need to incorporate a media plan to build excitement and inform the public ... determine how to collaborate with the Friends of the Greenways committee to accomplish this task.

8.0 **Status of the Riverwalk Connector** (current north end to red phone booth)

8.1 The bid packet has not yet come out due to last minute EGLE change requests.

8.2 The expectation is that this is a “simple” paving job, which could be completed between April and May.

8.3 The goal is to complete the project in time for the June 2025 Extension Grand Opening.

9.0 **Friends of the Greenways Committee Report** by Sue Camilleri

9.1 Mural project is on hold for the moment. In spite of several conversations with the DIA coordinator it took a site visit for her to realize this was an MDOT road abutment. Since the Township doesn’t own it, they won’t do it there for us. Looking at alternate locations. Camilleri to continue looking for funding to do the mural over selves.

9.2 Awaiting galvanized bolts before the abutments for the bridge can be poured. Concrete contractor is ready to move immediately when bolts are received. Abutment has to cure for a week. The bridge is completed and waiting in Ohio for frost laws to be lifted and the abutment to be poured and cured.

9.3 Precision Landscaping is ready to plant as soon as the asphalt is poured. It will take approximately 1-2 days for the work to be completed.

9.4 Summers Irrigation will be putting in an underground line from the fire hydrant at the end of Kohler Street to the end of Briggs Street. With that line in place there will be water at both sites to fill the gator bags. These bags will have to be filled every 2-3 days. We need volunteers who would be willing to complete this task one day a week. We will need a total of 3 volunteers. Camilleri to work up a schedule. There will be a hose at both sites so all that will need to be done is to turn on the water and fill the bags with a hose.

9.5 Reminder that Camilleri can put notices in the red phone booth at anytime.

9.6 All residents will receive an invitation to the ribbon cutting in their water bills in April, May, and June. Invitations were circulated with committee members via email and are available for handout, as well. Camilleri to give them to the Waterford Trustee Board Members to pass out and they will be available at Town Hall and the Library. Also, invitations went out to all elected officials from U.S. Congress on down to local neighboring boards (some have been invited to speak), to all outdoor art exhibitions

participants. Camilleri is in contact with the reporter, Peg McNichols, at the Oakland Press. She will join her at the construction site when the bridge is delivered and will do a piece about it. Contact with McNichols will remain through the ribbon cutting. Media Network of Waterford Township will be on site for the ribbon cutting and perhaps the bridge installation, as well.

- 9.7 Wind chimes are sold out. Five have been returned already. The contractor doing the Riverwalk has called in a favor to devote 3 hours of a man and his bucket trick to install the chimes at no cost.
- 9.8 There will be seven information tables at the Ribbon Cutting, including one for CGAC and COWL, music provided by Powers, and maybe 5-6 cardio drummers (drumsticks on those large rubber exercise balls) to build up the excitement.
- 9.9 At this time, there are no additional members of the Friends of Waterford Greenways because a lot of time has been taken up with construction of the Riverwalk. Ditto with any other grant applications. Everything is on hold until completion of construction.
- 9.10 Signage is being worked on, but not completed at this point. More on this later.
- 10.0 Spring Riverwalk Clean-up Event : May 10, 2025 : 9am – 12pm**
 - 10.1 Riverwalk poster has been finalized – again thanks to Brown for the artwork.
 - 10.2 Wasylkevych walked the Riverwalk earlier today. A few items noted to be in the river are a shopping cart, bike, exhaust pipe, and construction barriers. Also, there are many trees marked to be torn down.
 - 10.3 Discuss media plan and how to grow community involvement.
 - 10.4 Update email list and send out invitations. Brown volunteered to complete this task. Email invitations will be sent out starting one month prior to the event, two weeks prior to the event, and another the week of the event to invite all greenways contacts.
 - 10.5 Discuss a possible sign-up sheet. Brown volunteered to look into how to make this happen. Sign-up link will be included with email correspondence and linked to a QR Code. Consider adding the QR Code to the poster for next years' event.
 - 10.6 Discuss installing mini-fences at the edges of the Riverwalk bridges to stop people from rolling shopping carts into the river – work with DPW to do this before or during the Spring clean-up.
 - 10.7 Wasylkevych has waivers to be printed and completed on-site at the event. Consider adding digital waiver that can be completed online with the sign-up link for next years' event.
 - 10.8 Hauswirth to circulate final Riverwalk Cleanup poster at the Town Hall.
- 11.0 Discuss possible adjustments to remaining 2025 meeting dates**
 - 11.1 Currently, we have been meeting on the 3rd Wednesday of each odd-numbered month at the Waterford Library at 6PM.
 - 11.2 Resolved to revise the meeting schedule to the 4th Tuesday of each odd-numbered month (May-Dec) at the Waterford Library at 6PM. Brown to update this schedule with the Township.
- 12.0 Waterford Parks Mapping Project**
 - 12.1 The Township Development team and the Parks and Recreation team have asked CGAAC to provide pathway and structure maps for all the parks.
 - 12.2 Discuss what process and tools to use. "All Trails" was suggested as a possible tool.
 - 12.3 Assign Parks to CGAC members – Hess Hathaway, Lions Park, Maceday Lake Park, Elizabeth Lake Woods Park, Marion Street Park, Clinton River South Park were suggested as starting points as these parks already have existing trails that could be mapped better.

13.0 Greenways connections priorities

- 13.1 Correct the perception within the Township Board regarding CGAC mission
- 13.1.1 We are not a side-walk oriented team looking to complete sidewalks along major Township roads, even though we provided a comprehensive list of these deficiencies.
- 13.1.2 We are about maintaining and connecting greenways to facilitate township residents' and guests' non-motorized access around the township.
- 13.1.3 Yes, this involves building out a few missing connections, but the return on these investments is incalculable toward the safety and health of our residents.
- 13.2 We have reached out to the Oakland County Parks and Recreation team to better understand how Waterford's greenways priorities mesh with those of Oakland County and neighboring communities.
- 13.3 We have reached out to Polly Ann Trail management to understand their south-bound continuation plans and how these would mesh with the Waterford's greenways priorities, especially with the proposed Waterford/Keego Iron Belle Trail Connector.
- 13.4 Hospital Road pathway has been recommended as another high priority system in anticipation for the new Waterford Community Center which will be located near the intersection of Hospital Road and Cooley Lake Road.

14.0 Status of other Greenways projects

- 14.1 **Invasive Species** : Clinton River Canoe Launch and Riverwalk Removal of Phragmites project : the contractor for this project, Davey Resource Group (DRG) has finished mulching of each of the four areas (one area is located along the Riverwalk and the other 3 areas located at the Clinton River Canoe Launch) during January & February 2025. Brown reports they will be back out in the Spring to evaluate the job and give recommendations for further treatment.

15.0 Round Table

- 15.1 Status of the Oakland Community College – Highland Lakes campus closure was discussed. The southern portion was purchased by Waterford Township via a Bond Proposal which passed during our last election process. More updates regarding this matter will be discussed at future meetings as CGAC is interested in following the story.

16.0 Public Comment

- 16.1 Swartz suggested connecting with Deb, who has been attending our meetings, to officially add her as a member and exchange contact information.

17.0 Adjournment

Moved by Hauswirth to close the meeting

Seconded by Swartz

RESOLVED, to adjourn the meeting at 7:38PM

Motion carried unanimously