

COMMUNITY GREENWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF WATEFORD
WATERFORD TWP PUBLIC LIBRARY – STUDY ROOM
TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2025 @ 6PM

MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Roman Wasylkevych, Jacquelynn Brown, Robert Swartz, Jim Powers

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

Marie Hauswirth

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. **Roll Call**
2. **Approve Agenda**
 - 2.1 Agenda for May 27, 2025
 - Moved by Powers
 - Seconded by Swartz
 - RESOLVED to approve the May 27, 2025 agenda, as printed
 - Motion carried unanimously
3. **Approve Minutes**
 - 3.1 Minutes for March 19, 2025
 - Moved by Wasylkevych
 - Seconded by Powers
 - RESOLVED to approve the March 19, 2025 minutes, as printed
 - Motion carried unanimously
4. **Communication Update**
 - 4.1 Question from our Contact Us page : Why is the Riverside Elementary gate closed? Wasylkevych will follow-up with DPW and Riverside to see who owns the lock, who has access to the lock, and when it is locked. Powers states the gate is always locked during school hours.
 - 4.2 Riverwalk site plan page will be updated as part of the Parks Mapping project (see below). Signage along the Riverwalk was updated. However, the old sign board located south of M-59 was taken down so the measurements for the new signage are off. Wasylkevych has plastic/rain proof cover for the old signage board and will follow-up with DPW to work on the signage board again.
 - 4.3 Nine posters to direct Riverwalk concerns to the Greenways Contact Us page were printed and distributed – Waterford Parks & Recreation office, Waterford Township office, along the Riverwalk, and Brown has one for the table we will have at the Grand Opening next month.
 - 4.4 Still need to request to have the graphic link near the top of the CGAC web page. Wasylkevych will follow-up with the Township to get this updated.
 - 4.5 Still need to discuss how to get this graphic into the Waterford Parks & Recreation brochure and into the Lifetime Recreation brochure. Wasylkevych volunteered to complete this task.

5. **Status of Riverwalk Extension to Drayton Plains Nature Center** (AnglinCivil general contractor)
 - 5.1 Construction schedule is back on track (after the one-month road weight restriction delay) to finish in June 2025 (restoration, seeding, close-out) in time for the Grand Opening. The Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting ceremony will take place on 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 The 100 foot bridge was installed near the end of April and connected to the Drayton Plains Nature Center. Currently, deep supports are being put in for the boardwalk and paving is underway for the western section.
 - 5.3 A missing sidewalk was installed on Tubbs just west of Crescent Lake Road, and curb-cuts are being installed at the intersection.
 - 5.4 There are five QR enabled map signs included in the project to be placed along the length of the Riverwalk. Swartz showcased a copy of the map people will see when they follow the QR Code. The map has five specific locations along the Riverwalk where each QR map sign will be located. "You are Here".
 - 5.5 Wasylkevych walked the Riverwalk today and updated the group with pictures.
 - 5.6 Swartz suggested the "No motorized vehicle" signs along the Riverwalk may need to be updated. For example, what is the rule for e-bikes?
- 6.0 **America in Bloom** contractor, Precision Landscaping, is coordinating with Anglin/Civil for the Riverwalk Green Barrier installation prior to the Grand Opening.
- 6.1 Additional short pathways were added at the ends of Kohler and Briggs streets to facilitate local residents' access to the Riverwalk.
- 6.2 A gate is being added to facilitate access to the Riverwalk for residents of the River Crest Condos, who had granted us an easement for this expansion project.
- 7.0 **Planning the June 28, 2025 Grand Opening**
 - 7.1 Consult with the Friends of the Greenways committee to determine how the media plan to build excitement and inform the public is being implemented.
 - 7.2 Discuss CGAC participation in the Grand Opening. Powers will handle the music. Brown will handle the Greenways table.
- 8.0 **Status of the Riverwalk Connector** (current north end to red phone booth)
 - 8.1 The bid packet finally came out due (after last-minute EGLE change requests) in early May with an end-of-May deadline for bids.
 - 8.2 The expectation is that this is a "simple" paving job, which could be completed this Summer.
 - 8.3 The project will not be completed in time for the Grand Opening/Ribbon Cutting ceremony, but should be completed by the end of this summer, 2025.
- 9.0 **Friends of the Greenways Committee Report** by Sue Camilleri
 - 9.1 Riverwalk Outdoor Art Exhibition – "Blowin' in the Wind" (wind chimes) – will be placed along the Riverwalk from June to October. This activity was announced at the Waterford Township Board of Trustees meeting held on January 27 earlier this year. Fifty wind chimes were sold to interested parties/individuals for \$50/each. Wind chimes have been sold out. Excess proceeds will be donated to the Riverwalk towards future maintenance/projects.
 - 9.2 The Detroit Institute of Arts has rescinded its participation in the Riverwalk mural.
 - 9.3 Grant searches for additional greenways signage and greenway connectors will begin in the fall.

10.0 Spring Riverwalk Clean-up Event : May 10, 2025

10.1 This event was a great success! We had about 38 participants including Township leaders and two Girl Scout troops.

10.2 During the Waterford Township Board of Trustees meeting held on May 27, 2025, Hauswirth thanked the community for its participation and support.

10.3 The amount of trash collected is estimated to be about two cubic yards including two shopping carts fished from the river and the amount of trash collected by the Waterford Democratic Club's pre-clean up. The entire length of the Riverwalk was cleaned up including brush along Crescent Lake Road (just north of the red phone booth) and on the M-59 bridge. Many vines and invasive plants were removed, including garlic mustard.

11.0 Confirm adjusted remaining 2025 meeting dates

11.1 6:00PM Tuesdays – May 27th, July 22nd, September 23rd, and November 25th.

11.2 Get it updated on the Waterford Township Public Meetings web page (email sent March 21st, but not yet updated). Brown to follow-up.

12.0 Waterford Parks Mapping Project

12.1 The Township Development team and the Parks and Recreation team have asked CGAC to provide pathway and structure maps for all the parks.

12.2 Wasylkevych has been using an application called "Runkeeper" while walking all the paths in each park. An example was provided of the walk Wasylkevych completed at the Drayton Plains Nature Center. Brown has recently acquired an application called "AllTrails" and plans to do some testing.

12.3 Work with the Township Development and OCC Parks teams to figure out how to get the raw walked maps incorporated into cleaner maps.

12.4 Try to get all parks mapped in June and July for next meeting updates. Wasylkevych plans to focus on the Drayton Plains Nature center and Maceday Lake parks. Brown to focus on Elizabeth Lake Woods Park and Clinton River South Park. Hayden-Schmid volunteers to check out Hess Hathaway Park, Lion's Park, and Marion Street Park.

13.0 Greenways connections priorities

13.1 We have created (with an assist from John Lyman, Waterford Township Grant Writer) a comprehensive outline of a "Waterford Non-Motorized Transportation Plan – Connecting Where the Pathways End".

13.2 We tried to get a SEMCOG planning grant for Phase 5 Polly Ann Trail Waterford connection of this plan; however, we were asked to back off for now because Phase 4 Waterford/Keego Iron Belle Trail Connection planning has not yet been completed.

13.3 We have discussed the following, which was announced at the Waterford Township Board of Trustees meeting held on May 12, 2025 – the Community Greenways Advisory Committee is planning to coordinate with various involved Township departments to host a community workshop (similar to one held in 2001) to establish priorities as we all work together to create a Township Non-Motorized Transit Plan, which we have started to call "Connecting Where the Pathways End." This is in line with the both the Township Master Plan and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, where a major objective is to improve health and fitness by connecting non-motorized pathways and bike lanes not only to the parks and destinations within the Township (for example, to the new Community Center), but also to surrounding communities' major trails. We hope to facilitate this workshop in the early Fall of this year.

- 13.4 We continue to work with colleagues from other Greenways, Parks, Trails and related organizations, including the Oakland County Trail, Water & Land Alliance (Wasylkevych has been attending these meetings).
- 13.5 Wasylkevych shared the 2001 Walkability Study which was an all-day affair during the time it was completed. This study can be used as a blueprint to help meet our needs today. Not all priorities from the study are complete. We can utilize this study to match up greenways priorities.
- 13.6 Visionary Workshop to be scheduled with the Township (may be as early as this Fall 2025).
- 13.7 Powers suggested getting students and young people involved. We need a simplified approach to peak interests.

14.0 Status of other Greenways projects

- 14.1.1 **Invasive Species** : Clinton River Canoe Launch and Riverwalk Removal of Phragmites project : the project period of July 2024 – July 2025 is wrapping up. A second year funding opportunity has been provided by the Great Lakes Commission. Brown has applied for this grant opportunity and it was accepted. A second-year project for the period of July 2025 – July 2026 will be managed by the Conservation of Waterford Lands.
- 14.1.2 Hayden-Schmid wonders if we can add more areas to the Phragmites grant project. Brown confirms we are able to add more areas and is working with Waterford Parks & Recreation to evaluate other areas that should be included in future projects.
- 14.1.3 Powers wonders if there is any natural preventative maintenance we can do to prevent the Phragmites from growing back. Additional invasive species management efforts along the Riverwalk was suggested by Brown. Maybe a Fall Riverwalk Clean-up focused on invasive species removal would be a good idea.

15.0 Round Table

- 15.1 Swartz suggests we use on “go-to” term such as “greenways” to describe the type of pathways we monitor.

- 15.2 Powers indicates the Clinton River Watershed Council is interested in greenways matters.

16.0 Public Comment**17.0 Adjournment**

Moved by Powers to close the meeting

Seconded by Swartz

RESOLVED, to adjourn the meeting at 7:27PM

Motion carried unanimously